

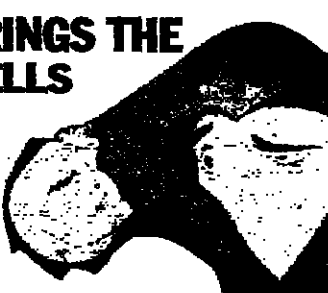
DAMON HILL: THE DAY MY SON WENT MISSING

Formula One champion-elect on a race against time, P42
NarWest Trophy second round
PAGES 38, 39, 44



DISNEY RINGS THE RIGHT BELLS

Quasimodo gets the schmaltzy treatment
FILMS, P31



BEST FOR BOOKS

■ Bel Mooney on Playing the Harlot
■ Jorge Luis Borges
■ Buster Keaton
■ John Lahr PAGES 34,35



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TOP JOBS
SECTION 3

Bonn may taken to court by Brussels

Germans defy EU to keep ban on beef

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

GERMANY yesterday set itself on a collision course with Brussels by extending indefinitely a national ban on the import of all British beef and its by-products although the EU has already begun to ease the embargo.

Bonn's apparent readiness to defy the EU is certain to stoke passions in Britain when the European Court of Justice rules tomorrow on Britain's request for an emergency suspension of the overall ban. Britain is thought unlikely to win this and is expected to lose two other cases before the court, on pensioners' bus passes and the protection of birds.

Responding to the intense public fear over Britain's BSE crisis, the German Cabinet renewed a ban imposed last March and due to expire on September 29. It also made clear that it has no intention of excepting bull semen, which was cleared for export by EU officials in June. Exports of gelatine and tallow, two other by-products, have also been approved once Britain conforms to new requirements.

A spokesman for the German Agriculture Ministry said that Bonn had no plans to follow the Brussels order to start to lift the ban on the by-products. A spokesman for Franz Fischer, the EU Farm Commissioner, said that Germany was expected to obey EU decisions easing the ban. "If they don't, they are clearly in breach of the law," he said.

For the moment, only the order on bull semen was

involved because, although the decision had been taken in principle, Britain had not yet been given the go-ahead to export gelatine and tallow. Commission officials also noted that Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, had agreed, along with the other EU leaders in Florence last month, to abide by the principle that the beef ban would be administered according to science. The EU's experts ruled that the by-products, when correctly treated, carried no risk of spreading BSE.

Germany's near panic over "mad cow" disease reached new intensity this week with reports, as yet unconfirmed, that British beef was being smuggled onto the Continent via Italy. The German action embarrassed the Brussels Commission, which could be obliged to take Bonn to the European court if it maintains an import ban that is no longer supported by the EU.

All EU states imposed bans when the BSE crisis started in March, but they are expected to fall into line with the decisions on easing the embargo. Britain is planning to seek a further easing of the ban in the autumn, in keeping with the step-by-step programme agreed in Florence.

Germany's apparent willingness to flout EU decisions will add to pressure from some Tory ministers and Euro-sceptics for defiance of rulings from the Luxembourg court that are deemed to interfere with Britain's sovereignty. On the advice of the Government's legal experts,

John Major has backed away from threats to ignore such decisions and is banking now on playing for time and trimming the court's powers at the negotiations to revamp the Maastricht treaty. These are due to conclude next June.

The most explosive case involves a likely court decision in September that will require Britain to enforce a maximum 48-hour working week. However, the three cases over the next few days are certain to sharpen Conservative anger with what many see as meddling by unqualified Continental judges.

Tomorrow the judges are thought likely to uphold at least most of the EU beef ban for the time being, although some experts believe they might challenge the EU's powers to block exports to third countries.

Today the 15 judges will issue their verdict on the case of Stanley Atkins, a retired Shropshire mechanic, who complained that his local council was wrong to refuse him a bus pass until he reached 65, since women were entitled to them at 60. The court is expected to confirm a preliminary ruling, delivered in March, which found that the British system discriminated against men. In the third case, the Court is expected to uphold a complaint from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds over a decision by the government to exempt Lappel Bay, in the Medway Estuary, from an EU directive on wild birds protection.



Killing field: police at the scene in Cherry Garden Lane yesterday after the bodies of Mrs Russell and daughter Megan were discovered

Mother and child found murdered

BY LIN JENKINS AND BILL FROST

A GIRL aged nine was seriously ill in hospital last night after she was found unconscious and battered lying by the bodies of her mother and six-year-old sister in an isolated cornfield in Kent.

Lin Russell, the wife of an academic at Kent University, and her daughters Megan, 6, and Josephine, 9, were discovered early yesterday half-way along the secluded cross-country route they took to walk home from school.

Dr Shaun Russell, 47, a biologist, had returned to their listed semi-detached cottage in Nonington, near Canterbury, to find it empty. He and a neighbour, who had dropped by to take the girls to Brownies, searched in vain before alerting police at 10.45pm on Tuesday.

Mrs Russell, 45, was last seen as they walked from Goodnestone primary school where she picked the girls up when they arrived by coach from a swimming gala in Canterbury.

A team of 30 officers from the Kent police tactical unit searched the route they often walked in fine weather through woods and across cornfields, a mile or so from school.

They came across the murder scene by a farm track shortly before lam yesterday. One of the family dogs, a terrier called Lucy, had also been killed. Josephine was taken to hospital

in London and last night her father, who works at the Institute of Conservation and Ecology on the University of Kent campus at Canterbury, was at her bedside. A police guard was mounted at the hospital and police declined to say where she was for her own safety.

A post-mortem examination on Mrs Russell and Megan was being carried out last night. Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens who is leading the

inquiry, said it was too early to speculate about how they had died but described the scene as "bloody". No murder weapon had been recovered, he said.

At the school yesterday where the girls had been since moving from North Wales last year children were in tears when they were told what had happened. Police went into classrooms to warn them to be wary of strangers, not to play alone or wander away from

their homes. The Russells' opposite neighbours, Mark and Sheila Whitley, said they were preparing to break the news to their daughter, six-year-old Danielle, who was a playmate of Megan. Mrs Whitley, 33, said: "They were all always in the garden. You could always see them working on the house but particularly in the garden, even the children." Mr Whitley said his daughter was particularly friendly with Megan, who he described as a "tiny, slight girl with short bobbed hair".

Margaret Fryer, 62, who lives opposite the school and watched daily as Mrs Russell collected her children, said: "The path through the wood was overgrown and I used to worry about them. I know this is a lovely area but these days you really can't feel safe wherever you are. I almost wanted to run and tell her not to do it, but I never did."

The Russell family moved to Nonington last year from Llanfyllini, near Carnarfon, after returning from South Africa where Dr Russell previously worked. His job in Wales was with the University of Bangor. Lin Russell, anxious to minimise the trauma of moving for her Welsh-speaking daughters, opted to send them to the smaller school in the neighbouring village of Goodnestone instead of Nonington.

Continued on page 2, col 1



Dream home: the listed granary cottage where the Russells lived

Church leaders seek to reduce Ulster tension

BY NICHOLAS WATT AND AUDREY MAGEE

RELIGIOUS leaders in Northern Ireland held talks with David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, last night in an attempt to resolve the stand-off between loyalists and security forces before hundreds of thousands of people take to the streets for tomorrow's July 12 Orange parades.

The meetings came as thousands of protesters converged on the village of Drumree, near Portadown, Co Armagh, in support of the Orangemen who have refused to move until the RUC reverses its decision to prevent them from marching along the nationalist Garvaghy Road. A thousand more British troops were also beginning to arrive in the Province.

Mr Trimble shuttled between the four main church

leaders in Armagh City and the protesting Orangemen at Drumree, who have been in a stand-off with the RUC since Sunday.

The two sides know that if they fail to find a solution by this evening, Northern Ireland risks being engulfed in sectarian violence as tensions rise on the eve of the Twelfth celebrations. Loyalists will light thousands of bonfires across the Province to mark William of Orange's victory over the Catholic James II at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690.

Parades will be held tomorrow in towns and villages before tens of thousands of Orangemen plan to converge on Drumree.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, underlined the gravity of the situation when he said last

night: "There is a very very tight timescale that exists in which a resolution can be found."

In an attempt to calm the atmosphere, the Ulster Volunteer Force denied being involved in the murder of a Roman Catholic taxi driver in Lurgan, Co Armagh, on Monday. The statement, which followed similar denials from the two other main Protestant paramilitary groups, added that the UVF ceasefire remained intact. But the Orange Order struck an equally hardline note when it threatened to stretch the security forces to the limit tomorrow by marching through nationalist areas of the Province.

Fear and frustration, page 5
Ellis O'Hanlon, page 16
Letters, page 17

South Africa to get £60m in extra aid

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR yesterday pledged a further £60 million of British aid to South Africa and called for closer relations between the two countries after talks with President Mandela. The money is to go towards improving education, health, rural development and small businesses.

At a relaxed joint press conference outside No 10, Mr Major said that he hoped Britain could help South Africa by negotiating the best possible relations with the European Union and so open markets across Europe to South African exports.

Today the Prime Minister is expected to announce further help for young sportsmen and women in South Africa. Hailing Mr Mandela's visit as "a heart-warming occasion", Mr Major said he hoped that the good relations between the

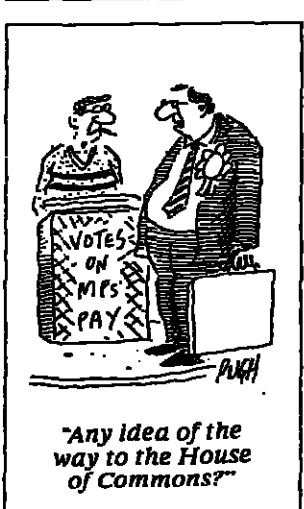
two countries would get even closer. President Mandela enthused over the warm reception he had had from the Royal Family, the media and the public during his visit.

"I will be going back to my country like an old battery which has been recharged,"

The President confirmed that he intended to step down at the end of his term when he would be 81. "We need a younger man with drive who can put this country on a new footing. We have many such young men and women in the leadership of the ANC."

Asked about Baroness Thatcher's reported description of the African National Congress as a terrorist organisation, he said: "I would like us to let bygones be bygones."

Degrees of praise, page 3
Leading article, page 17



"Any idea of the way to the House of Commons?"

Strike ban plan

Ministers are to consider plans to outlaw strikes in the water, power and transport industries and the health service in what would be the Tories' most radical clamp on the unions. Page 2

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Road to gold medal starts with a cold bath

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

IT IS simple, it is legal, and it could win a gold medal in the Olympic Games in Atlanta: cold baths beloved of Victorian schoolmasters make distance athletes run faster.

Dr Frank Marino and colleagues from Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, New South Wales, Australia, tested eight athletes on a treadmill. Half the athletes were

immersed in a bath of water which was initially tepid, at a temperature of 84F (29C). Over the course of an hour, its temperature was lowered to 73F (23C). The athletes then ran for half an hour on a treadmill in a room where temperature and relative humidity were controlled before being compared with the four controls. Three days later the groups were swapped and the experiment repeated. The cooled athletes ran "almost another lap of an athletics track" in the half-

hour session, Dr Marino told *New Scientist*.

Why "chilling out" should result in better performances remains guesswork. "We couldn't find a difference between the two in oxygen consumption terms," Dr Marino says. The likeliest explanation is that the slow cooling lowers the body's internal temperature, improving muscle efficiency. After the bath, the chilled athletes had a core body temperature about a degree below normal and

their skin temperature was 80F (27C). After the half hour on the treadmill, the difference persisted. Running generates heat in the muscles, which is usually carried away by the blood to the skin, which is cooled by sweating. Dr Marino believes that pre-cooling allows more blood to stay in the muscles, delivering its cargo of glucose and oxygen. But if the body is cooled too fast, it activates defence against hypothermia and core body temperatures rises.

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| | |
|------------|--------|
| TV & RADIO | 42, 43 |
| WEATHER | 22 |
| CROSSWORDS | 22, 44 |

| | |
|--------------|------------|
| LETTERS | 17, 27, 40 |
| OBITUARIES | 19 |
| JAMES FENTON | 16 |

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| ARTS | 31-33 |
| CHESS & BRIDGE | 37 |
| COURT & SOCIAL | 18 |

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| SPORT | 37-42, 44 |
| BODY & MIND | 14 |
| LAW REPORT | 36 |

Black week in British politics: the pay debate recalled

Speaking in the debate on MPs' pay, the Chancellor of the Exchequer said this:

"... It is not a remuneration. It is not a recompense. It is not even a salary. It is just an allowance, and I think the minimum allowance, to enable men to come there, men who would render incalculable service to the State, and whom it is an incalculable loss to the State not to have here, but who cannot be here because their means do not allow it..."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was David Lloyd George, the pay was to be £400 a year and the date was August 10, 1911.

The Chancellor's proposal was agreed too, but not before heated debate. After Lloyd George, a Mr Arthur Lee (C) spoke. He told MPs that this would go down "as a black week" in British politics. The Chancellor seemed to think this £250,000 "raid on the Exchequer" was "very largely a joke". But, once approved, the principle

would never be revoked...

"It will lead to the extinction in the House of Commons of that type of Member who has been its peculiar pride and strength up to the present time, the Member active and distinguished in other walks of life."

Other legislatures had started by paying modestly, said Lee: "They all made very small beginnings."

"But it is absolutely inevitable that once salaries are paid to Members of Parliament who have control over



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

the amount of their salaries, like all other classes who are paid wages, they will seek to raise those wages whenever they get the opportunity."

"I believe," he concluded, "it will sound the death knell of that system of voluntary service which has been the chief and unique glory of British public life." Mr Ram-

say Macdonald thought Lee's "a somewhat lugubrious speech" but Mr Hayes Fisher supported Lee. That £250,000 "is only a decoy duck", he said. "It is nothing to what the Chancellor is going to lead us into." And Mr Fisher had an additional worry: the growing power of the whips. If an MP depended on parlia-

mentary pay, then

"The Party Whip has them in the hollow of his hand. He would be able to say to that man, 'You are just beginning to get a foothold on this Parliamentary ladder; you are an ambitious man, I shall not run you at the next election, and that £400 a year on which you are relying will not longer be yours.' [An Hon Member: "impossible!"] The Marquess of Tullibardine suspected that the general public would take a dim view of this largesse: "I

would like to see every Liberal Member go to his constituents and say 'the Question at issue is whether or not I shall put £400 into my own pocket. If that were done, I think very few of those who are in favour of the payment would come back here.'"

Mr Austen Chamberlain took the argument further: "... there will be ... a growing inclination ... to resent the absence of a Member from any little local show or function at which a

few of his constituents desire to see his presence, and that when he does not attend they will ask him what he is paid a salary for, if he cannot attend all kinds of shows."

How true, how very true. The debate continued for some five hours, and the motion was easily carried.

The next day's business began with discussion of the establishment by the Post Office of "what is called a telephone system".

Some debates move on. Others never do.

Ministers plan to outlaw strikes in essential services

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

MINISTERS are to consider plans to outlaw strikes in the water, power and transport industries and the health service in what would be the Conservative Party's most radical clamp on the unions. Several Tory employment secretaries have looked at legislation against strikes in the essential services and rejected it as too controversial. The idea is to be considered again, this time by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, who has taken over the responsibilities of the former

Employment Department. There are no formal plans before the Government but it is expected to come before an internal Tory committee, headed by Mr Lang, which is considering industry and employment proposals for the election manifesto.

A senior Tory figure said last night: "The union card has worked for us before. It could well be in the manifesto." The plan has resurfaced amid growing public and ministerial concern about the series of strikes on the London

Underground. Union leaders accused ministers of dreaming up publicity stunts after the proposal was confirmed last night.

John Edmonds, general secretary of the GMB general union, said: "This is playing politics with the Tube strike and is the last gasp of a dying government trying to play the bogus union card. But it won't wash because there is no appetite for union-bashing."

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, said any measures to ban strikes would be draconian. He said: "The Government must have taken leave of their collective senses if they believe denying basic human rights that are enshrined in international law has any place in our democracy."

Ken Cameron, general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union, said banning strikes would be "dangerously authoritarian".

The proposal could go further than any of Baroness Thatcher's anti-union legislation in the 1980s. Tory strategists see the proposal as a chance to highlight Labour's difficulties over the Tube strike and want to highlight the refusal of the Labour leadership to condemn the latest action. John Major is understood to back the study.

It was being emphasised that the plans were very much in the formative stages and much work needed to be done to assess the legal feasibility of the scheme. But ministers said there were precedents in that the police and armed forces were already prevented from striking. In several other countries there were already bans on strikes in the essential services.



William Hague, left, and Michael Forsyth have now buried their differences

Hague triumphs in battle for £1.7bn microchip plant

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE scored a notable success yesterday over Michael Forsyth, a future Tory leadership rival, by clinching a £1.7 billion microchip factory for Wales.

Both ministers, who joined the Cabinet last summer, were locked in fierce but friendly rivalry to try to attract the Korean LG Group, with the promise of 6,000 jobs, to their Welsh and Scottish backyards. But it was Mr Hague, the Welsh Secretary, who won the battle with an undisclosed battery of financial incentives.

It was a timely victory over Mr Forsyth, 41, the Scottish Secretary who has stolen the limelight from Mr Hague in the Tory offensive over Labour's devolution plans.

Mr Hague, 35, has won support across the political divide for his adroit handling of the deal, which secured for the Principality the biggest inward investment of its kind

in Europe. He spoke regularly to the company's officials in Seoul by video-conference telephone link, banging the drum for Newport, Gwent.

There was competition from two quarters: the Irish Republic, which provides generous relief on corporation tax and Scotland, which boasts numerous South East Asian microchip factories.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that up to £150 million in regional assistance grants was involved. Mr Forsyth is thought to have matched the figure, but Mr Hague was given the nod.

However, the deal faltered when it was leaked to the Welsh media in May. LG Group management was furious, and Mr Forsyth seized his chance. He flew to South Korea on a fortuitously pre-arranged nine-day sweep of South East Asia. It was to no avail.

Mr Hague's officials were

crowding yesterday. One aide said: "Scotland was an outsider. It was never in with a chance. It was the Republic of Ireland, not Scotland, which was the real enemy."

The Forsyth camp was more sanguine. "You win some, you lose some."

But it is the Treasury that could have the last word. Fearing that regional grants are being driven too high in the competition for inward investment, it is considering handing responsibility to a central body, such as the Invest in Britain Bureau, controlled by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Forsyth and Mr Hague have buried their differences to unite against the Treasury move to strip them of their powers. "They are once more fighting a common foe," a Welsh Office official said.

Leading article, page 17
£1.7 billion deal, page 23

Ministers 'misusing' civil servants

By Philip Webster

SENIOR civil servants are accusing ministers of putting them under pressure to breach their strict code of political impartiality.

The Association of the First Division of Civil Servants (FDA) is seeking an early meeting with Sir Robin Butler, head of the Civil Service, to raise fears that as the general election approaches they could face more demands to cross the borderline between government and party political work.

The FDA is acting on the result of a survey of members in 11 government departments. More than 20 out of only a few hundred civil servants working in daily contact with ministers complained of being asked recently to do work that might compromise their political impartiality. The union is already examining four or five serious cases and says that many of its members reported that such problems were commonplace within their departments.

Complaints from both middle-ranking and very senior civil servants included pressure to prepare material for election manifestos, alter official reports to provide a party political slant, give briefings on political responses to Opposition policies and Opposition speeches, supply material subsequently used in party election broadcasts and write political speeches when political advisers, who are not civil servants, are absent.

Elizabeth Symons, the FDA general secretary, said there seemed to be a steady retreat from political neutrality. "Considering that there are probably only a few hundred civil servants working in day-to-day contact with ministers, it's particularly disturbing that so many members say they have been asked to breach political impartiality or objectivity by ministers or their political advisers."

"The response we have received suggests a continuing and widespread problem. The pressure on civil servants is only likely to increase in the run-up to the general election."

Peter Mandelson, Labour's spokesman on the Civil Service, said: "The entire Tory party is running scared of new Labour and, while we expect the same old scaremongering stories from the same old Tories, we will not tolerate neutral civil servants being dragged into their negative campaigning."

"Sir Robin Butler must take a stand on this and defend the neutrality of the Civil Service in the pre-election period or see the traditional standards simply thrown to the wall."



Nicola Parsons

Police urge vigilance after rape

A killer who subjected 13-year-old care assistant Nicola Parsons to "a horrible ordeal" as he raped and strangled her in a derelict school was being hunted by Plymouth police yesterday. Police warned women in the Plymouth area not to go out alone late at night. They also began checking possible links with an attack on another young woman in the same area in March.

Nicola went missing on Sunday and her body was found in the school by a passerby.

Shadow elections

Shadow Cabinet elections are expected to be held within a fortnight. Tony Blair, the Labour leader, has given up his efforts behind the scenes to suspend the elections and he is now reluctantly backing a compromise to bring them forward from October to July 24.

£1m IRA reward

Police offered a £1 million reward for information leading to the IRA Manchester bombers. Commander John Grieve, head of the anti-terrorist branch, said information was wanted about where the bombers might have loaded and prepared the lorry bomb.

Murder inquiry

A boy aged 13 arrested on Tuesday evening is being questioned by police in connection with the murder of Jade Matthews, nine, who was found beaten to death in Boode, Merseyside. Two 17-year-old males who were arrested on Monday are also still being questioned.

Potholer dies

A British woman from a British-Hungarian potholing team was found dead last night as rescuers tried to reach three others in caves beneath the Alps near Grenoble. The potholers have been stranded in the caves since Saturday, trapped by rising water after severe storms.

Mother and daughter, six, found murdered in field

Continued from page 1

school. The Russells' home, Granary Cottage, had been part of an estate run as a teacher training college. It was sold nine months ago when Nonington College became home to a religious sect, the Bruderhof Community.

At first, villagers greeted the community with suspicion and about 100 of the 440 residents signed a petition against it. Since then the 80-strong community, dedicated to pacifism and purity and sworn to live by the letter of the New Testament, have proved that they are not to be feared.

The community, expelled from Germany by the Nazis in 1937, have 2,000 members in

communities in America. Beech Grove at Nonington is one of two Bruderhof communities in Britain.

The village is also home to patients of the Promise Centre, which treats sufferers of eating disorders, drug addiction and alcohol abuse at a cost of £1,840 a week.

Brother Gary Stanaway, one of 80 Americans at the religious community, said they knew the Russells well and had prayed for them. "If we can do anything for them, we will. We are still shocked by it."

He said they had asked the police to come and talk to the community about their own safety. "We have no idea how, why or what and the fact that



children are involved makes it harder to bear."

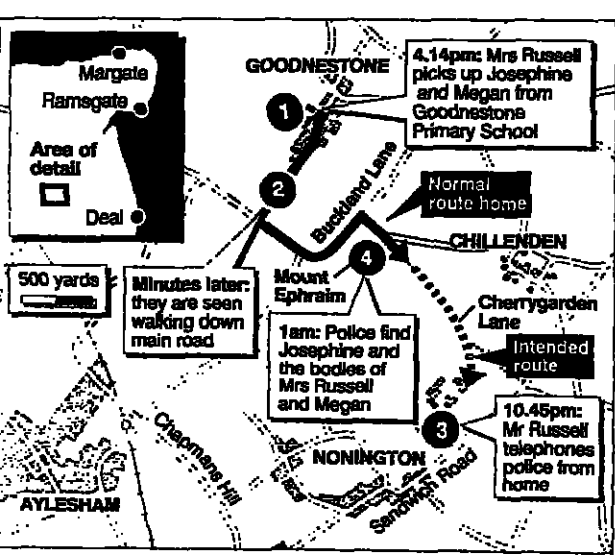
Norman Newmarsh, 42, a plumber who lives in another of the cottages sold when the Bruderhof sect took over the college, said Mrs Russell was a keen gardener and was always seen outside with the dogs Lucy, a terrier, and Jackie, a retriever type, and the children.

Patrick Williams, 41, who shares his cottage, said: "Mrs Russell was a very striking and attractive woman. She

was always in the garden and I used to nickname her, The Earth Mother. She reminded me of the actress, Janet Suzman. The children were adorable and looked like she must have done when she was younger."

Shaun Russell's friends and colleagues at the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology on the Kent University campus last night expressed their disbelief and horror.

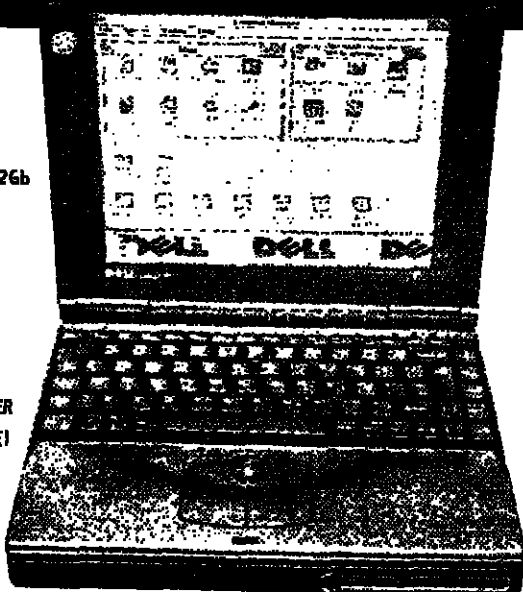
Dr Michael Walkey, executive director of the institute, described Mr Russell as a highly valued member of staff. "We are still reeling under the shock. The fact that Shaun's wife and daughter are dead is a matter of very deep distress for all of us."



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Academia showers honours upon Mandela

President receives honorary degrees eight times over

By ALAN HAMILTON AND DAVID CHARTER

UNIVERSITIES ancient and modern queued up yesterday to confer their most exclusive honorary degrees on President Mandela in a mass graduation ceremony on the lawn of Buckingham Palace.

Chancellors, Vice-Chancellors and public orators from eight academic institutions vied to deliver the most adulatory declaration of the South African President, who occasionally looked bemused but who accepted all eight degrees with his customary civility and good grace.

The ceremony had been a nightmare of protocol for the Earl of Airlie, the Lord Chamberlain, who was faced with deciding in what order the degrees should be conferred. He went for the safe option of descending order of age, which put Oxford in pole position and Glasgow Caledonian bringing up the rear.

The lawn was awash with mortar boards and the rainbow hoods and braids of academe as the Duke of Edinburgh, wearing the heavily gilded robes of Chancellor of Cambridge University, conducted Mr Mandela from the Palace to the receiving dais. The Duke immediately had to retire to a back seat and allow precedence to Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Chancellor of Oxford, who beamed mightily at his brief upstaging of royalty.

Lord Jenkins read Mr Mandela's oration in Latin, which left the President impassively incomprehending; no one seemed to have bothered to hand him a translation.

Cambridge followed but the Chancellor, for all his other talents, chose to leave the reading of the Latin oration to the university's professional and classically skilled orator.

The remaining universities were happy to deliver their orations in English, competing with each other in their flowery flattery of their newest graduate. The Chancellors came in steady procession: London, Bristol, Nottingham, Warwick and De Montfort,

which sneaked a double appearance by giving Mr Mandela a doctorate of laws and a companionship of the university, which required two presentations and two handshakes. The deputation from Glasgow Caledonian disclosing privately with pride that, as a newly installed Doctor of the University, Mr Mandela would be in the august company of Richard Branson and Jackie Stewart.

The eight honorary degrees has elevated him to membership of an elite band of scholars, clergyman and royalty boasting awards in double figures from British universities. Mr Mandela, who now has 11 honorary degrees to his name, achieved at a stroke what has taken decades for many notables in British public life.

The list of those knee-deep in honours is headed by Sir Claus Moser, the educationalist, who has 19 with another offer in the pipeline. Next come Sir David Attenborough and Lord Scarnan with 18 each, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, has 11 honorary doctorates.

Very few recipients elect to follow Dr Samuel Johnson and use the honorary title. Otherwise we would have Dr Joanna Lumley, the actress, (University of Kent 1994), Dr Sting, the musician, (Northumbria 1992) and Dr Graham Taylor, former England football manager, (Humbly Grove).

Some of the newer universities have more serious reason to honour Mr Mandela apart from mere admiration: they run academic programmes in South Africa and award degrees to South Africa students there and in Britain.

Overwhelmed with scrolls, Mr Mandela replied graciously: "It is not individual achievements which are being honoured here today. Rather it is the remarkable way in which South Africans have turned from division and conflict to reconciliation and the pursuit of a better life."

Leading article, page 17



That "Madiba" style: Nelson Mandela in the outfits he chose for, from left, Downing Street, Buckingham Palace and Westminster Abbey

Political activist who backed Madiba now puts his shirts on the president

By INIGO GILMORE AND ROBIN YOUNG

PRESIDENT Mandela's wardrobe consultant yesterday disclosed the secrets of world statesmanship's nattiest dresser.

"When he became president Mr Mandela realised that he would have to dress with due dignity," said Yusuf Surtee, the man behind what has become popularly known as "Madiba" (Mandela's clan and affectionate nickname) style, "but he also decided that to identify with the masses sometimes he would wear just shirts."

Mr Surtee owns the Alfred Dunhill store in Johannesburg's northern suburbs and is managing director of Gray's men's clothing stores with several branches in the city.

An Indian South African who lives in Johannesburg with his wife and son, Mr Surtee was a political activist who visited Mr Mandela in prison and has remained a close friend since.

Since Mr Mandela's release from prison he has regularly consulted Mr

Surtee about designs for shirts and suits.

The Mandela shirt dates back to 1993. At first, said Mr Surtee, the President sometimes wore his shirts tucked in and at other times loose. "Then he went on a visit to Indonesia, where he was given shirts with finished bottoms and slits at the sides. He came home and said: 'Yussuf, from now on I wear my shirts untucked.'"

Mr Surtee said that the President received many shirts as gifts, but often specified the colour, style and fabric for shirts he purchased very precisely.

The long, flowing African shirts, casual and colourful but always elegant, quickly became an integral part of Mandelamania. After the grey-suited apartheid era the dash of colour Mr Mandela has introduced to the drab political arena has been enthusiastically welcomed by many, white and black. "Madiba" has even become a dress code at high society parties.

Not everyone is happy about it, however. Hermanus Kriel, a former law and order minister who is now the

Nationalist premier of Western Cape province, said recently that ANC MPs, who have followed Mandela's style, were tainting the "dignity and decorum of parliament". He added: "I do not like it when you go to a formal dinner and there are foreign guests and everyone is wearing suits and then this chap appears in a loose shirt with an open collar."

Even the president's old friend Archbishop Desmond Tutu has murmured disapproval. "He is so elegant and dignified in his suits," he said last year, "but I myself don't like him much in his shirts."

Mr Mandela said later that he had talked with Tutu on the subject but "declined to enter a discussion on which there is no solution".

By adopting a style that mixes Europe and Africa Mr Mandela is forging an identity that is uniquely South African.

"The style is symbolic," said Mr Surtee. "In South Africa most people do not wear ties. The president wants

to identify with those people."

The distinctive black dress shirt with white stitching at the collar and pocket tops worn at the state banquet was designed by the Italian Stefano Brioni. He also made the suit worn on the first official day of the visit.

Such is the demand for presidential fashion that Mr Surtee orders batches of 50 or 100 extra shirts for his shops each time the President orders a new one. They sell at £100 or more each.

Mr Surtee says several British shops, including Harrods, have expressed interest in acquiring Mandela clothing since he arrived in Britain but insists he has no plans to open an outlet outside his home country.

Mr Surtee added that the President always wears white shirts and waistcoats with his suits. "He thinks that is the traditional and British thing to do. He says: 'If you are going to wear a suit, do it properly.' He is a very conservative man. He would never abuse or waste his clothes. When he has finished with them he gives them away."

Mutual passion gathers strength

By ALAN HAMILTON

PRESIDENT MANDELA, on the second day of his state visit to Britain, moved from pomp to serious business with an appeal for more foreign investment in his still-troubled country.

The President told a London conference organised by the Confederation of British Industry that the poverty, social decay and profound inequality left behind by years of apartheid could be eradicated with the help of outside nations and especially Britain, which is already the largest foreign investor in South Africa.

But for all the hard-nosed business talk, Mr Mandela's visit continues to be an emotional and heartfelt occasion. During the business conference, he said that during his years in prison he had often wondered at the passion of the British people for his cause.

The British passion for Mr Mandela remained unabated, even at dawn. Over 600 on-lookers had gone to St James's Park by 7am, to watch Mr Mandela plant a plane tree in aid of the Prince of Wales's Royal Parks Tree Appeal.

Always an early riser, the President chose to walk from Buckingham Palace along the length of the Mall to his first engagement of the day, shaking the hand of passers-by who rushed up to greet him. "I wish I could come to London every week," he told the crowd waiting for him.

He was welcomed in the park at 7.30 by the South African Musical Village, a group of performers dressed in leopard skins and brightly coloured robes. Despite the early hour, Mr Mandela could not resist the carnival atmosphere and briefly shimmied and shook with the music.

After the CBI conference, Mr Mandela went on to talks and lunch at Downing Street. Even there he could not resist the human touch, pulling a black photographer from the crowded press corral and insisting that he posed with himself and the Prime Minister in the official pictures.

Rothschild banking heir dies aged 41 in Paris hotel

By EMMA WILKINS

AMSCHEL ROTHSCHILD, 41-year-old heir of the family banking dynasty, died from a heart attack while alone in a Paris hotel room, his family said yesterday.

Mr Rothschild, who was married with three young children, had just finished a series of business meetings in France. His sister Victoria said that his body was found on Monday by hotel staff, who raised the alarm and called an ambulance.

His widow, Anita, 38, and the couple's children, Kate, 13, Alice, 12 and James, 11, who live near Bury St Edmunds,

Suffolk, were being comforted by Miss Rothschild yesterday. She said: "Anita is devastated, but she is looking after the children. We are all in a state of shock. He was a wonderful brother. We were extremely close. There was no warning that he was ill. He did not have any heart problems."

Mrs Rothschild, a member of the Guinness brewing family, returned from Paris yesterday having identified her husband's body. Mr Rothschild's half-brother, Lord Rothschild, said that the funeral would be held early next week, probably at a

liberal synagogue in Willesden, north London.

He added: "Every single member of the family is united in their love and respect for Amschel. He was an intelligent, deeply sensitive, loyal and much-loved human being."

Mr Rothschild, an amateur motor racing driver and a former contributor to the now defunct *New Review* literary magazine, farmed at Rushbrooke, near Bury St Edmunds, before joining N M Rothschild, the family bank, in 1987.

Despite his quiet approach to the frenzied world of international finance, some tipped him as a possible successor to his second cousin, Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, as chairman of the family firm. Sir Evelyn flew to Switzerland yesterday on business, but is due to return today to offer his support to Mr Rothschild's widow.

One colleague who has known the family for many years said: "There was never any indication to me that he was ill. His death has come as an enormous surprise and a terrible shock."

Obituary, page 19



Amschel Rothschild and his wife, Anita

Alien moth evades security in Buckingham Palace gardens

By MICHAEL HORNSEY

NATURALISTS have discovered a moth previously unknown in the British Isles among a diversity of rare flora and fauna in the Queen's gardens at Buckingham Palace.

The Palace was silent last night on speculation that the tiny alien, *Ecopispa effracta*, might have been imported inadvertently in the luggage of one of the better-travelled members of the Royal Family, or possibly have arrived here attached to the person of a foreign visitor.

It is not the first time that a moth new to Britain has been

found in the Palace garden, according to David Agassiz, a lepidopterist at the International Institute of Entomology. "In the 1960s a tiny green moth, *Earias insulana*, an African cotton pest, was found in the garden on the day after a party for African Commonwealth leaders," he said.

Dr Agassiz offers a more prosaic explanation for the latest find: "We know that the moth occurs quite widely in the rest of Europe and that it particularly likes feeding on apple leaves. The most likely explanation is that it was accidentally imported in a consignment of fruit."

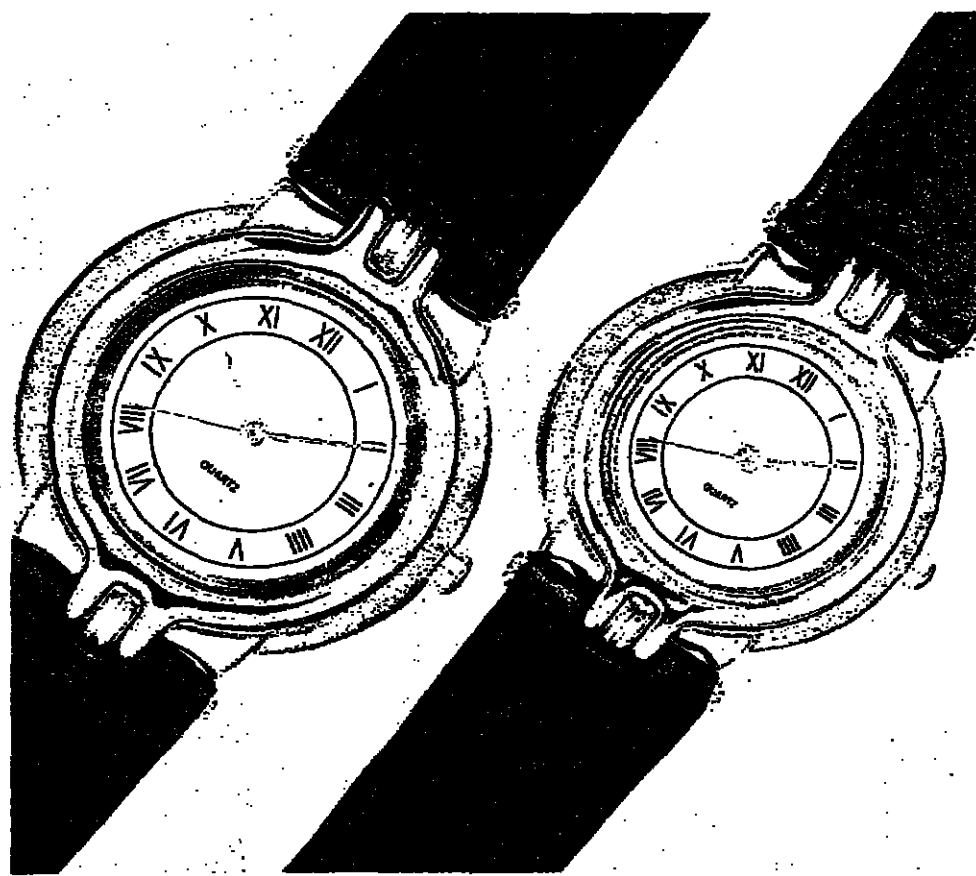
Among other wildlife iden-

tified in a survey of the 40-acre palace garden are 17 species of breeding birds, including the great-crested grebe; 12 other species of moth not recorded there before and four species of solitary wasps.

The survey team has also found a number of unusual flowering plants, among them the single-spotted orchid, common skullcap, round-leaved fludien, stone parsley and round-leaved cranesbill.

One species of wildlife definitely not welcome in the garden is the urban fox, which earlier this year killed the Queen's flock of seven pink flamingos, a gift from London zoo.

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Pupils will be told 'You are safe now' as Wolverhampton joins Scotland in examining school security

Head reveals more heroism during machete mayhem

By ADRIAN LEE AND JOANNA BAILE

THE headmistress of the school where a man carried out a machete attack described the "worst moments of my life" yesterday.

She spoke as it was announced that St Luke's Infants School, Wolverhampton, will reopen on Monday. The nursery unit where the children fell will remain shut until the injured nursery nurse returns.

The head, Denise Bennett, said that if the attack had happened five minutes later, when 165 pupils were leaving, there could have been 70, not seven, casualties. Speaking in detail for the first time about the mayhem inside the small building, she said that she would never forget the "dreadful" cries of injured children.

"There was panic, people were calling for help. I cannot describe the horrendous scene in the corridor," Mrs Bennett said. She will tell pupils on Monday: "Something terrible has happened, but you are safe now." Yesterday she said: "Five minutes later and the whole school would have been going home. There would have been 160-odd children out there, not the 20. The fact

that seven people were injured, but we have not had a fatality, is remarkable."

She praised staff and parents, telling of the previously unrecognised actions of two teachers, Dorothy Hawes and Linda Jones. Miss Hawes grabbed children and pulled them into the boiler room, slamming the door shut. "She somehow held the door closed and saved the children. He was trying to get in. Mrs Jones held the door to a reception class. They have said they don't know where their strength came from."

Although £3,000 was spent upgrading security after Dunblane, it will be reviewed again by governors in the next few weeks. A message from Dunblane Primary School was one of many received by St Luke's after the attack during a "teddy bears' picnic". It read: "The shock of what happened to your school is magnified by the fact that it happened during such a happy time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all."

Educational psychologists will monitor the children's recovery. Tomorrow there will

be a meeting for parents to answer their questions and next Wednesday there will be a service at the school, which is Church of England aided.

Yesterday West Midlands police faced criticism over the time taken to catch a suspect who spent 28 hours hiding in a tower block overlooking the school. Balbinder Bains, who chased the attacker, said: "The police are claiming all the glory for finding him, but it was a security guard at the flats who told them to look in the cupboard."

A Wolverhampton police spokesman said: "We had searched the cupboard that he was eventually found in. We believe he was moving around the building."

Wendy Willington, 29, a parent who suffered a fractured jaw and head wounds, was discharged from hospital yesterday. Lisa Potts, 21, the nursery nurse, and three children, Reena Chopra, Francesca Quintyne and Ahmed Malik, are still being treated.

Last night police were still questioning Horrett Campbell, 32, in connection with the incident.



Denise Bennett yesterday as she recalled "the worst moments of my life"

Dunblane chief of police wants electronically controlled entry

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

PRIMARY schools should have electronic fingerprint readers to protect them from attackers, the Chief Constable of Central Scotland Police has told the Dunblane inquiry.

William Wilson, head of the force responsible for granting Thomas Hamilton his gun licence, told Lord Cullen's investigation into the death of 16 pupils and their teacher at Dunblane Primary School on March 13 that such technology already existed. "A child or adult wanting to enter a school would simply have to insert one finger into the reader, and subject to the unique characteristic of the print being identified, admission would be allowed."

The system would mean that a single fingerprint from every pupil, teacher and worker in the school would be needed at the start of each term, but "that would be not be an insurmountable task", Mr Wilson said. Security cameras could also be used to vet occasional visitors to a school.

Mr Wilson also suggested that local authorities be given a computer with access to the Scottish Criminal Records Office files to enable them to vet adults working with children.

His comments came on the final day of the Dunblane inquiry, which has heard from 170 witnesses and received written submissions from more than 160 interested parties. Lord Cullen will produce a report with his recommendations by the end of September.

Mr Wilson, whose force has come in for strong criticism of the way it handles gun licence applications and the time taken to inform the victims' families of the massacre, defended his officers' work.

He called for stricter guidelines for police issuing firearm certificates. Current guidelines were open to "wide interpretation". He also called for national standards to apply for firearms licensing procedures.

He said that the decision to brief social workers on the injured before informing parents ensured that the victims' families were given accurate information and were treated sensitively. "The price of such an exercise was the time it took."

The inquiry has already been told that the parents of the victims waited for up to six hours to discover whether their children had been killed or injured in the attack.

The solicitor for the force

defended a decision by Douglas McMurdo, then Deputy Chief Constable, not to act on a report by another senior policeman recommending that Hamilton's gun licence be revoked.

Mr McMurdo's lack of action was criticised earlier this week by the lawyer for the victims' families, Colin Campbell, QC, who said: "But for the firearms department's culpable failure to remove these weapons from Mr Hamilton, this terrible tragedy would not have occurred."

However James Taylor said yesterday that Mr McMurdo had been right not to act. "When considering whether to revoke or refuse a firearms certificate, a chief officer cannot act on a whim. He cannot act on intuition. He cannot act on 'gut feeling' - the much-used phrase of this inquiry."

"If he is to revoke or refuse an application, he must be able to lead evidence in support of his contention that the applicant or holder is likely to cause a danger to the public by virtue of his possession of a firearm. Given the climate created by the Government in relation to the administration of firearms, it is grossly unfair for society to suggest that one individual police officer or group of police officers should shoulder the blame for something so horrendous as took place on March 13."

Lord Cullen spoke yesterday of the "very heavy responsibility" of compiling his report. He will have to study almost two tonnes of legal submissions and transcripts.

"The task now transfers to me to consider everything I have heard and in due course to produce a report I hope will measure up to the responsibility entrusted to me," he said.



Lord Cullen: his report is due in September

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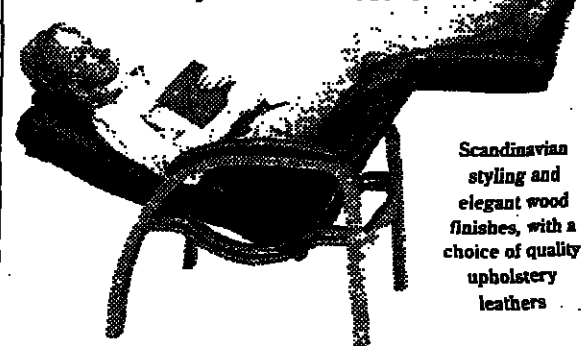
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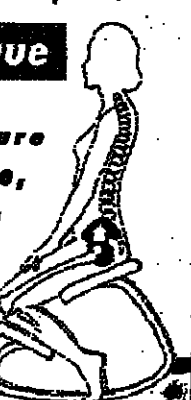
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BY PETER FOSTER

The picture was put up for sale last year by Sir Nicholas Bacon, whose family acquired it in the mid-19th century for £30. It was attributed to an Italian artist until 1956, when David Carritt, an art historian and dealer, recognised



house outside Norwich, where he casually asked to see the *St Jerome* and astonished his hosts with his news. Following its authentication the painting was loaned to the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. The small panel, dating from the

The panel went on show yesterday at the National Gallery's Sainsbury Wing, with both sides visible through a protective glass covering. In November it will go on tour to the National Galleries of Scotland, Edinburgh; from January to the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff, and later to the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, which has a significant collection of Dürer prints.



By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

The past year has seen a rush of discoveries in obesity research, including the hormone that regulates the feeling of fullness and a number of candidates for weight-controlling drugs.

metastases and malignant osteoclastoma, a bone tumour. Mrs Mason said: "This whole thing has dominated my life. He was such a wonderful man and never had a chance to fight for himself."

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Crisis looms as Chinese start to process young for medicines before they can breed

First study shows seahorse numbers halved in five years

By Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent

THE seahorse population is believed to have halved in the past five years, according to the first international study into trade in the creatures.

An appeal was launched yesterday to conserve and study the seahorse after the study showed that 20 million were caught each year for oriental medicines, curios, tourist ornaments and pets. Their habitats, which include coral reefs, mangrove swamps and seagrass beds, are also being destroyed.

Dr Ananda Vincent, a marine biologist at Oxford University who has carried out the research, said: "There appears to have been a 50 per cent decline in the past five years. Seahorses are in deep trouble. We need early action to avert a crisis."

In Britain, where two species of seahorse occasionally visit from the Bay of Biscay, they were used for medicine until the 18th century.

Dr Vincent has found that, apart from mating for life, seahorse partners greet each other almost daily in courtship ritual. Unlike other animals, it is the male that gives birth after the female has inserted her eggs into its brood pouch.

Seahorses have been used in traditional Chinese medicine since about 720 AD. Dr Vin-

cent's studies, funded by the Department of the Environment's Darwin Initiative and the World Wide Fund for Nature, indicate that the demand is rising at 10 per cent a year, putting 35 species at risk. Growing economic prosperity in China means that expensive medicines such as seahorse preparations are becoming more affordable. With dried seahorses worth more than silver in Hong Kong, fishermen have every incentive to catch them.

Dr Vincent said that the nature of the Chinese medicines market, in which seahorse was used to treat asthma, impotence, throat infections, difficulties in childbirth and skin diseases, was also changing.

Until recently, customers in China, Hong Kong and Chinese communities would visit a shop to choose a dried seahorse for powdering into a medicine. A switch to pre-packed oriental medicines means manufacturers were able to process young seahorses before they can breed.

A worldwide decline in other fish and creatures such as sea cucumbers off the Indian coast, is also putting pressure on seahorse populations as fishermen look for an alterna-

tive livelihood. Studies have found that the male has a range of one square metre, "holding onto the same seagrass shoots for weeks". Once a colony is destroyed it can take a long time for an area to be naturally recolonised, Dr Vincent said.

Populations are also under threat from the tourist and curio trade. Hundreds of thousands of seahorses are caught each year for the pet trade, despite the fact they are notoriously difficult to keep in captivity, Dr Heather Hall, of the Zoological Society of London, said.

Project Seahorse, launched by Dr Vincent and experts with the Zoological Society, is appealing for funding. The initiative is aimed at conserving seahorses and using genetic screening to study species.

Dr Hall said that they were trying to perfect captive breeding so the pet trade in the West would no longer need supplies from the wild. It is hoped the research will also allow fishermen to develop seahorse farming schemes.

Dr Vincent said that until more was known about seahorse numbers she could not support a move to have them listed under the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species.



Dr Vincent with a dried seahorse, used in oriental medicine and worth more than silver in Hong Kong

NEWS IN BRIEF

Weight joke doctor is cleared

A doctor who told a patient "Jesus, you need to lose some weight", and joked that she might need a hoist to help her get up, was cleared yesterday of serious professional misconduct by the General Medical Council.

Sanath Weeraratna, 62, was found to have made the 54-year-old woman undress without privacy in a Rochdale consulting room and to have made "derogatory" remarks. But he was not reprimanded and was cleared of all other allegations.

Abuse training

Detectives from Scotland will arrive in the Philippines on Saturday to hold a two-week training course for police and social workers on investigating child abuse. The country's parliament is considering the death penalty for paedophilia.

Swimmer killed

A British building worker has been found dead after jumping into Hong Kong harbour from a ferry and trying to swim ashore. Police said that the body of Ben Harris, 28, had been severed at the waist, apparently by a boat's propeller.

Beam of life

Clifton suspension bridge in Bristol is to be fitted with an infra-red device to help prevent suicides. Anyone who climbs over the safety barrier will break a beam of light and set off an alarm. An average of ten people a year leap from the bridge.

Cannabis seized

More than 400 kilograms of cannabis resin, worth £15 million, has been seized from a Spanish bus bound for Britain in the biggest drug haul yet at the Channel tunnel terminal at Coquelles, near Calais.

Lot of bottle

A methuselah of burgundy, equivalent to eight bottles, sold for £20,900 in a wine auction at Sotheby's in London. The bottle of Romanée Conti 1990 (estimate £14,000-18,000) sold to a telephone bidder from the Far East.

'Green' singer's trout lake will destroy ancient water meadows

By Nick Nuttall



Sting: plans upset government agency

A SCHEME by the rock star and environmental campaigner Sting to develop a trout lake on his estate has been given the go-ahead despite claims by the Government's Environment Agency that the project will be ecologically damaging.

The singer, who has mounted a series of well-publicised campaigns to save the rain forests of South America and protect the Amazonian Indians, wants to flood around 0.4 hectares of land at his 500-year-old manor at Wilsford-cum-Lake, near Amesbury in Wiltshire. Environ-

ment Agency officials say it will damage water meadows by the River Avon, features of the landscape that are in sharp decline.

The agency, along with Wiltshire County Council, which advises on conservation issues in the county, opposes the project, but it has been approved by Salisbury District Council's planning committee, which has the final say.

A spokesman for the county council said yesterday: "We are concerned about the land and its history. We are a bit surprised. He [Sting] is supposedly interested in the environment."

Judith Greville, chairman of the

district council's northern area committee, which gave the go-ahead, dismissed the county's objections. She said that before the meeting there had been a lengthy site visit at which they had been shown where the trout lake would be constructed.

"There was a better-preserved water meadow next door that would not be touched," she said. "The whole area was also very well conserved. The whole mood of the meeting was to pass it."

The decision has angered Helen Cave-Penney, the county council's assistant archaeologist. "I am very disappointed," she said. Water mead-

ows throughout Wiltshire were under threat and she feared the decision would be taken as a precedent by other people.

"It should be noted that the site lies within the World Heritage Site for Stonehenge and within the Avon Valley Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). There was a duty on councils to maintain and enhance the nature conservation interest of the ESA and its associated landscape and historical features."

Ms Cave-Penney said that the rate at which water meadows were being lost needed looking into. In one parish they found that 50 per cent

had been ploughed. "Although we cannot be certain, there is nothing to suggest that this figure would not be repeated all over the county."

Officials for Sting said the trout lake would be made environmentally friendly and be designed to attract dragonflies, frogs and other wildlife. A spokesman for the Environment Agency said: "We have objected. Well-preserved, ancient water meadows will be destroyed."

The agency said it would be looking very closely at the project during construction and might consider intervening to halt it under land-drainage rules.

Government plans to double journeys by bike in six years

By Jonathan Pryn, Transport Correspondent

BRITAIN'S 20 million bicycle owners were urged yesterday to double the number of journeys they made as the Government unveiled its plans for reversing the decline of cycling.

Sir George Young called on local authorities and businesses to encourage cyclists by providing more facilities, such as cycle lanes, secure sheds and showers and changing rooms at work.

The Transport Secretary, an enthusiastic cyclist, announced the Government's new target of doubling the number of journeys made by bike within six years and quadrupling it by 2012.

The launch comes 14 years after Kenneth Clarke, then junior transport minister, announced a similar Government initiative for boosting cycling. Since then, the proportion of journeys made by bike has dropped from about 3 per cent to below 2 per cent, one of the lowest figures in Europe, while car use for short trips, such as running children to school, has soared.

Sir George conceded that a huge shift in attitudes was needed to persuade people to use their bikes more. "We need to change the culture so it isn't unusual to have a Secretary of State who goes around on a bicycle," he said.

Under the Government's

first National Cycling Strategy, local authorities that propose allocating more road space to cyclists will be given priority in government transport funding.

Labour attacked the initiative as an empty gesture, and said the £8 million a year that the Government allocated for cycling only just exceeded the cost of running the ministerial car pool.

Glenda Jackson, a Labour transport spokeswoman, said: "Obviously cycling is a healthy and worthwhile pastime but the amount ministers are investing in this project is

only a fraction more than they spend on being chauffeured to and from work every day. Telling the British public to get on its bike is not a solution to the nation's transport problems."

The average Briton travels 38 miles by bicycle and 4,150 miles by car each year. About a quarter of all car journeys are of two miles or less — the sort of journeys that Sir George said could easily be made by bike. Cycling accounts for 11 per cent of journeys in Germany, 18 per cent in Denmark and 27 per cent in Holland.



In the 14 years since Kenneth Clarke launched his cycling drive, bicycle use has fallen and car use soared

More jobs and pay for graduates

By John O'Leary

GRADUATES' job prospects are improving, with more vacancies on offer and starting salaries approaching £22,000 in some City firms.

Although the thousands of students graduating this summer face stiff competition for jobs, big firms and public-sector organisations expect to have almost 10 per cent more posts available, the Association of Graduate Recruiters reported yesterday. Many companies are doubtful that they will find the right candidates to fill all their vacancies.

The average starting salary for this year's graduates will be £14,750, an increase of 5.3 per cent on last year. Non-industrial firms in London are offering £20,750, but hotel and catering companies outside the capital pay an average of £10,250.

Firms are providing more fringe benefits. Assistance with further study is the most common, offered by more than half of those surveyed. Almost half offer private pensions and life assurance.

Four out of ten respondents had difficulty in finding suitable graduates, especially in information technology and finance. More than a third of respondents named interpersonal skills as the quality most often lacking in applicants, with commercial acumen also in short supply.

Russia learns language of free speech

By Robin Young

THE FALL of the Soviet Union has stimulated a growth industry in Russian words. With more free speech, Russians have suddenly become uncommonly loquacious and the new Concise Oxford Russian Dictionary includes hundreds of words for things they could not previously put a name to.

Everyone in the Soviet Union knew how to say labour co-operative, comrade and shot-putter. But Russian words for political correctness, househusband and golfer did not exist. Until glasnost, Russians did not admit the existence of bodybags, riot police or drug traffickers either. Since the collapse of communism Russians have also had to find new words for privatisation, venture capital

and multinationals, and Oxford's researchers have also uncovered the Russian neologism for cyberspace. For all those who need to know, it is *kiberprostranstvo*.

Sadly it is the rise in organised crime and the Russian mafia that have had the most marked effect on the language, according to the Oxford experts. Hitmen, human shield, money launderers and racketeers make their debut in the new dictionary. Politicians have also now been supplied with Russian words for coup plotter and arms embargo.

Other newcomers include words to identify company cars, barter economy, information superhighway, multimedia and skateboarder. A spokeswoman for Oxford University Press said: "Nothing much had happened to the Russian

language for decades but suddenly there was an explosion. When the Berlin Wall came down and the Soviet Union collapsed, Russia had lots of new things to deal with and did not know what to call them, so they had to invent words. Some are based on existing Russian words, some on the English version and some a mixture of the two.

Thus the Russian for drug trafficking is *narkobiznes*, privatization *privatizatsiya* and political correctness *politicheskaya korrektnost*. Golfer merely becomes *golflist*, hitman is *killer* and a skateboarder is a *skejtboard*.

The new dictionary offers a total of 190,000 translations including abbreviations, acronyms and regional variations, and should make dinner conversation for Russians for years to come.

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Fine defaulters face being stripped of their driving licences

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

FINE defaulters could have their driving licences taken away in a government crackdown detailed yesterday.

Gary Streeter, junior minister at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said that a variety of measures would be considered other than imprisonment. They include electronic tagging and publishing names of defaulters.

Mr Streeter was launching the first phase of a campaign to tackle the problem of £200 million worth of unpaid fines a year and to ensure that prisons were not filled by persistent defaulters. "Fines are more than just money due: it is a debt to society," he said. "But we also recognise we want to keep prisons free for the real offenders, the hardened, persistent criminals who break into our homes and beat up our families."

However, he ruled out legislation this autumn to end jail as a penalty. The Government appears to have stalled on plans trailed by Michael How-

ard earlier this year to replace prison terms with community service.

It is also at odds with the courts over how much prison space is taken up by fine defaulters. Yesterday Rosemary Thomson, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, said new Home Office statistics showed that in March this year there was a prison population of 54,000, of whom 149 men and 18 women were fine defaulters. "It is quite obvious that they are taking up very little prison space," Mrs Thomson said.

The Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, set up a working group in May because of concern over the £31 million written off by the courts last year in uncollected fines. Yesterday, the department announced new guidance for magistrates to encourage courts to set new timetables on payments, to monitor enforcement and to make more use of supervision orders and "fines clinics" in

which defaulters could be advised on how to pay fines.

Courts will also be able to make an "attachment of earnings" order at the time of sentence, not just on default. Better arrangements for deducting fines from benefits are also being considered.

Mrs Thomson welcomed the new guidance which, she said, was primarily aimed at bringing in revenue and ensuring that fines were an effective penalty. A fall in the prison population would be a welcome spin-off, but was not the chief aim, she added.

Garages can be liable to foot the bill if they pick up parking tickets on cars in their keeping for maintenance and repairs, the High Court ruled yesterday. The judgment provides important clarification of the law as more local authorities consider switching to "decriminalised" parking control, in which it is the responsibility of councils, rather than the police, to deal with parking offences.



Nicholas Causton demonstrates his bowling action

Six wickets in six balls, just like great-grandad

By ROBIN YOUNG

A YOUNG cricketer has emulated a feat performed by his great-grandfather 74 years ago, taking six wickets with six successive balls — the elusive double hat-trick.

However, Nicholas Causton, a 14-year-old medium pacer who employs "a bit of spin", was rather more thrilled that he managed to score four runs not out. "Although I get plenty of wickets, I don't usually make many runs," he said yesterday.

His father John, an accountant in Poringland, Norfolk, said: "I don't think Nick is old enough to realise quite what an achievement it is. I have never heard of anybody making a double hat-trick before except his great-grandfather. I have told him he will probably never see such a thing again in his lifetime."

The boy achieved the feat in a match between his village team, Brooke, and their rivals, Loddon. His great-grandfather, Sidney George Causton, made his double hat-trick in 1922, playing for the Norfolk village of Mundford. The ball he was playing with was kept as a family memento, with a



Sidney George Causton: six-wicket feat in 1922

shield mounted on it bearing his initials and details of the achievement.

Nicholas, a pupil at Framingham Earl County High School who plays for the under-14s, said: "I would like to have the ball I was using to keep like my great-grandad's, but we were playing away so it was Loddon's ball. I am hoping they will let me have it."

The demon bowler said he had never even taken two wickets with successive balls before. "It was pretty funny

how people kept getting out. Three were caught in the outfield, one by the wicket keeper, and I clean-bowled two. But I must have got over-excited because my next ball was a wide."

Nicholas ended his four-over stint with seven wickets for 19 runs, having had one batsman stumped before the six wickets in the last four balls of his third over and the first two of his fourth. Brooke went on to win.

Mr Causton said: "We are a sporting family, but Nick likes to do a bit of everything. He has won four trophies at Brooke tennis club. He loves football and likes golf."

A double hat-trick has never been achieved in first-class cricket. Christopher Lane, spokesman for Wisden, said records were not kept for non-first-class cricket. The nearest achievement to six wickets in six balls was by Pat Pocock of Surrey, who set the world record in first-class cricket of seven wickets in 11 balls against Sussex in 1972. Pocock took five wickets in six balls and five balls later he took another two.

Caddick hat-trick and cricket, pages 38, 39, 44

Schoolboys need help to catch up with the girls

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOL inspectors yesterday urged more "positive action" to help boys to catch up with high-flying girls. The call came after a study showed the gap between girls' and boys' results was widest in the most academically successful mixed schools.

Inspectors also noted that the long-standing superiority of girls at GCSE was also becoming more marked.

Ona Stannard, a school inspector who co-wrote yesterday's report, *The Gender Divide*, said: "We have had reasonable success in raising the achievement of girls. But now we need to be concerned about under-achieving boys."

"We want schools to look long and hard at the factors which may be contributing to that and think about strategies of positive action which worked for girls and could work for boys."

Such action could include appointing mentors to help boys to understand the importance of passing examinations. More use could be made of technology, which boys enjoy, in subjects where they fared worst — such as English and foreign languages. Boys' schools were urged to pay particular attention to poor performance in "word-centred

subjects" and to the skills boys will need to succeed, especially communication.

Douglas Thorburn, another of the report's authors, said: "Girls tend to organise work better, meet deadlines better and present their work better. There is some research evidence to suggest they have a greater affinity or commitment to their schools."

The report, produced by the Equal Opportunities Commission and Ofsted, the school inspection agency, confirmed that girls were more successful than boys at every subject at GCSE apart from physics. Girls were also improving at traditional boys' subjects, such as technology and science.

The picture was more mixed at A level, with boys achieving both more very poor and more very good results than girls, who tended to revert to subject stereotypes.

The inspectors said that the picture was not entirely rosy for girls: "While girls are now achieving better academic results than boys at age 16, there is little evidence to indicate that this is leading to improved opportunities in the form of training, employment, career development and economic independence for the majority of young women."

Class ordered to resit exams repeats success

A CLASS of seven-year-olds ordered to resit national tests because their marks were much better than expected have confounded council officials by repeating their excellent grades.

Yesterday Oxfordshire County Council defended its decision to make the pupils re-take mathematics and reading tests, saying it had to look into results that were "out of kilter" with national and county averages.

But Tony Price, head teacher of Stephen Freeman County Primary School in Didcot, said that the pupils had been vindicated and were part of an exceptionally bright year. Six weeks ago, 30 of the 59 seven-year-olds achieved

above-average level-three grades in the national tests for reading and mathematics. County officials were suspicious of this "statistical blip" and ordered the resits.

Mr Price said: "It was a retrograde step that the local authority came in and ordered a resit. I felt we could have discussed a solution."

Parents had threatened to boycott the resits but were told this would give their children a zero score. One parent, Jackie McMin, said: "It's disgusting that a seven-year-old should have to take their exams again."

The results were not quite as high the second time, but Mr Price put this down to the pressure on the children.

THE BATTLE OF GLORIOUS VICTORY?

On the 22nd May 1982, five hundred men of the 2nd Parachute Regiment took on a superior Argentine force at Goose Green, and won the first land battle of the Falklands War.

The Para's Commanding Officer, Lt/Col H Jones was killed charging an Argentine trench and was awarded the Victoria Cross. "The devastating display of courage," said the citation "completely undermined their will to fight further."

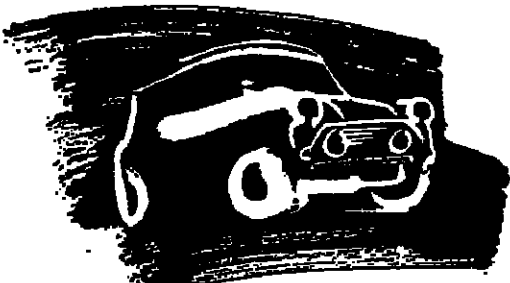
In this edition of a new series of Secret History British paratroopers who were with Jones, and the Argentine enemy soldier who shot him, give a new

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Foreign Office papers, 1949

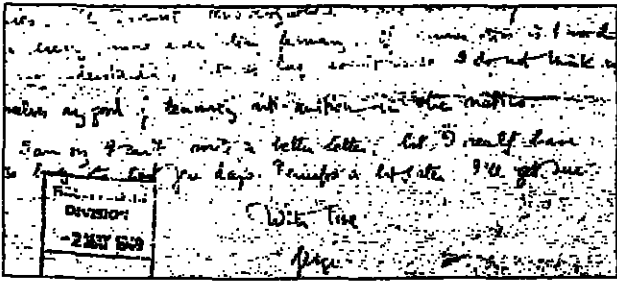
Orwell was recruited to fight Soviet propaganda

REPORTS BY IAN MURRAY

GEORGE ORWELL, terminally ill with tuberculosis, was enlisted in 1949 by the top-secret Information Research Department of the Foreign Office to help Britain to fight the propaganda might of the Soviet Union. His left-wing credentials made him exactly the type of author the department wanted to write anti-communist material.

The department was set up to collect anti-communist information and use in a way that did not look like propaganda. It was thus keen to recruit known leftwingers rather than authors or politicians on the right.

Orwell's *Animal Farm*, published four years earlier, was already being published in Russian, ready to smuggle to troops in Soviet-occupied zones of Berlin and Vienna. Official papers published yesterday show that, in March 1949, Celia Kirwan, a department officer, was sent to see Orwell at his sanatorium in



An extract from Orwell's letter to Celia Kirwan

Cranham, Gloucestershire. She reported that he was enthusiastic, but too ill to write or rewrite articles. He died in 1950.

However, he gave her a list of authors who could be trusted. They included Darius Gillie, *The Guardian's* Paris correspondent, and Franz Borkenau, who wrote for *The Observer*.

Orwell strongly recommended Victor Gollancz as a publisher, although Gollancz had rejected *Animal Farm*. He warned, however, that Gollancz at the time was "one-

track-minded" about Palestine. A couple of days later he wrote: "I could also, if it is of any value, give you a list of journalists and writers who, in my opinion, are crypto-communists, fellow travellers or inclined that way and should not be trusted as propagandists." The department wrote back enthusiastically asking for the list. Although it appears to have been sent, it has been removed from the papers.

Orwell also warned against trying to brand communists as anti-Semitic. "The Zionist Jews everywhere hate us and

regard Britain as the enemy, even more than Germany," he wrote. "Of course this is just a misunderstanding but, as long as it is so, I do not think we do ourselves any good denouncing anti-Semitism in other nations."

A total of 211 bundles of documents covering the department's activities in 1949, its second year of operation, were released by the Public Record Office in Kew. They cover Soviet labour camps, the establishment of a Singapore office to counter the communist uprising in Malaya and the potential spread of communism in the colonies.

They show British Embassies anxious to receive copies and translations of *Animal Farm*. "I have been so taken with the relevance of Orwell's fairy story," wrote Ernest Mair, our man in Cairo. "The idea is particularly good for Arabic, in view of the fact that both pigs and dogs are unclean animals to Muslims."

A group of Russian refugees in West Germany published

The Foreign Office thought Orwell an ideal propagandist after *Animal Farm* successfully satirised Stalinism

the book in magazine instalments. They wrote to Orwell asking for enough money to publish it in book form. Their letter said: "This is not mercenary, but exclusively in the interests of the cause of countering Bolshevism, which cause your book serves so brilliantly and to which we give our energies and if need be our lives."

The most important infor-

mation the department collected was about conditions in Soviet forced labour camps. The files are packed with harrowing stories from prisoners. One survivor of Soviet and Nazi camps told an interrogator: "Russian camps were filthy and full of disease, where German ones were spotlessly clean. The Soviets were more brutal, where German camps were artistically-

sadistic." However, the department was less interested in the detail than in the overall statistics of how many prisoners were being kept in such conditions, to frighten the rest of the world about the dangers of communism.

It tried without great success to find good publishers for anti-Soviet propaganda. Allen Lane, of Penguin, was fed some material which he

decided was too boring to print. The department was also looking for foreign authors with left-wing credentials. The Paris Embassy sent a list including François Mauriac and Deladier. Ralph Murray, head of the department, scathingly described the list as "right-wing deadbeats, Catholics, Gaullists and small-timers" whose use was "calculated to spoil our plan".

Politically correct lexicon discouraged use of 'communist'

THE propagandists of Whitehall were worried that politicians and writers should choose the right words in their speeches and articles. After wide consultation they produced a list of dos and don'ts for those involved in anti-communist propaganda.

"Communists" should not be used because of its "vague attraction". "Red" caused confusion with Soviet policies and was in any event "a term of reactionary abuse". Stalin should not be denigrated although it was "important to explode the fallacy that Stalin is a benevolent realist who is prepared to overlook the rash and more intransigent decisions of his subordinates".

"Soviet imperialism" was better than "Russian imperialism" because the criticism was of the regime, not the country. "Genocide" was useful because it was "capable of such variance as genocidal maniac". "Iron Curtain", "puppet state", "dictator" and "totalitarian" were all acceptable, but "Soviet fear belt" was wrong because it stressed the strength of the Soviet Union.

The list was produced after a successful speech to the UN general assembly in 1948 by Ernest Bevin, the Foreign Secretary, on Soviet forced labour camps. The speech, according to notes in the

papers, left the Soviet delegation "feeble and blustering" and led the department to see speeches as a perfect way of undermining communism.

Ralph Murray, head of the department, tried to think up new terms of politically correct abuse linking the Soviet regime with Hitler. He suggested "Communo-Fascism" but his superior at the Foreign Office, Christopher Warner, had another idea. "I wonder if Communad would catch on?" he wrote in the margins.

The department was greatly concerned about the growing communist threat in Africa, particularly in South Africa, where it considered that the unions were "infected by communists".

In a detailed report on African communism it concluded that its message was "presented in a crude, simplified form that is free from dogma". Written at a time when Nelson Mandela was beginning to become active in politics, the report said that African communism was "largely dependent for its success on respected, able, native leaders. The cry of 'Africa for the Africans' hums more sincerely from native lips." It said that, at that time, there were few Africans in the forefront of politics, and those who were tended to be "detrified".

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French elite rides out tide of scandal

Crème de la crème soured by spate of corruption claims

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

After maturing for years, a series of corruption scandals running through the French establishment like veins through Roquefort, have simultaneously ripened, and 1996 shows every sign of producing a bumper crop of politicians and businessmen suspected or convicted of illegal activities.

In the past fortnight, two former Cabinet ministers have had corruption convictions upheld, the chairman of the state-owned SNCF rail company, pending a fraud investigation, was put behind bars — where he joined the head of France's largest cancer research charity — and the Mayor of Paris was further enmeshed in an inquiry into alleged illegal party funding.

Since December, the head of France's premier construction company, the chief of the country's biggest investment bank and the president of Renault have all joined the expanding club of industrialists *mis en examen*, or placed under formal investigation for a variety of alleged offences.

No fewer than 30 French company heads have been placed under investigation in the past three years, along with dozens of lesser executives from such reputable institutions as the banks, Société Générale and Paribas, construction companies Saint-Gobain and Bouygues, and the telecommunications giant Alcatel-Alsthom.

The individuals placed under investigation represent an elevated cross-section of the political and industrial elite,

many of whom attended the same universities, reflecting the sometimes dubious close relationship between politics and business.

Loïc Le Floch-Prigent, the SNCF chief, is being investigated over the transfer of more than £100 million to a friend's ailing textile firm while head of the oil giant, Elf-Aquitaine, in the late 1980s. Jacques Crozermarie, the former head of the ARC cancer research association and M. Le Floch-Prigent's fellow inmate at La Santé prison, is alleged to have spent huge sums on his mistresses but very little on research. Politicians from both Left and Right are believed to have profited from ARC funds.

Bernard Tapie, the flamboyant former sports tycoon and Socialist minister, faces jail for match-rigging and tax-evasion, while Alain Carignon, once a rising star of the ruling Gaullist RPR party, was sentenced on Tuesday to four years' jail for taking kickbacks in return for a water deal while Mayor of Grenoble.

Jean Tiberi, the Mayor of Paris, now appears likely to avoid prosecution over allegations that renovations were carried out on a city-owned flat for his son, but an inquiry is still underway into charges that the Paris housing office under him funnelled kickbacks to the Gaullist party.

Brothers Martin and Nicholas Bouygues of France's largest construction group have each been placed under investigation in separate fraud inquiries. Earlier this year a Belgian court investigating



Clockwise from top left: Jacques Crozermarie, former charity boss; Serge Dassault, aviation chief; Loïc Le Floch-Prigent, rail chairman; Jean-Louis Boffa, industrialist; Louis Schweitzer, head of Renault; Jean Tiberi, Mayor of Paris; Alain Carignon, politician; Pierre Suard, of Alcatel-Alsthom; Didier Pineau-Valencienne, industrialist; and Bernard Tapie, ex-minister

corruption issued an arrest warrant for Serge Dassault, chief of the French aviation company. In December, André Lévy-Lang, head of the Paribas investment bank, faced allegations of falsifying accounts. Jean-Louis Boffa, head of the St Gobain group, has been under investigation since 1994 for alleged "influence-trading".

The wave of investigations has been hailed as proof of renewed determination on the part of the judiciary to prosecute top-level malefactors, after being muzzled under the Socialist regime of François Mitterrand. But there are also accusations that the present Government is trying to scupper investigations when members of the ruling party, such as M. Tiberi, are involved.

Many captains of industry appear to treat formal legal investigation as an occupational hazard, a minor and temporary inconvenience that does little to impinge on their business activities.

Louis Schweitzer, for example, remains head of Renault despite being placed under investigation for alleged wire-tapping when he was Chief of Staff to Laurent Fabius, a former Socialist Prime Minister. Gilles Ménage, former head of the state electricity company EDF, was placed under investigation on similar charges.

When a Belgian international arrest warrant prevented Didier Pineau-Valencienne, head of the Schneider electrical group, from leaving France, he simply ran his subsidiaries by video-conference.

Earlier this year, an appeals court upheld a guilty verdict against television presenter Patrick Poivre d'Arvor for accepting bribes: he is back on the nightly news. Pierre Suard was only forced out as head of Alcatel-Alsthom when a judge banned him from talking to employees.

Similarly, M. Le Floch-Prigent has refused to resign and must attempt to continue his overhaul of the hugely indebted French rail system from a jail cell. His appointment last December by President Chirac, in the knowledge that a full-scale corruption investigation was pending, has given the unavoidable impression that the President is not overly concerned by legal niceties.

The widespread belief that investigation and even conviction do not seriously affect

political or business careers in France was illustrated by a cartoon on the front-page of *Liberation* newspaper yesterday, showing M. Tapie and M. Carignon landing on their heads. "You're sure we can rebound from this?" M. Tapie asks M. Carignon. "No problem," comes the reply. "I've got four years to get in training."

The paper also asked: "Will there have to be a 'Clean Hands' operation in France?" like that in Italy. "Yes, and it is under way. But it won't happen without difficulties."

As investigative magistrates burrow deeper, there are disquieting signs that business and politics may be continuing as usual. This week, the Government admitted bugging the telephones of several top aides.

Leading article, page 17

Mitterrand love story enhances romantic image

BY BEN MACINTYRE

THE manuscript of a "sentimental-erotic" short story written in 1940 by the late François Mitterrand was auctioned in Paris this week, reinforcing the Socialist President's posthumous reputation as a life-long Lothario with a literary bent.

The manuscript of *Premier Accord* was sold for Fr38,000 (£5,000), along with a poem and three letters by Mitterrand, who died on January 8. The future President was 23 years old, a staff sergeant in the French Army preparing for the German offensive, when he wrote the short story, which is rather closer to the style of Mills & Boon than Marcel Proust.

Premier Accord recounts the love affair of Elsa and Philippe with much breast-heaving and suggestive flourishes: "She loved Philippe passionately. Unlike those women who consent to love as if forgetting to refuse, she gave herself to him as a spontaneous gift. He put the finishing touches to her sensual deliriums."

Gérard Oubé, an expert on rare books and a friend of the late President, said he had bought the manuscript as a "gesture of affection".

The poem by Mitterrand, dated September 16, 1939, was bought for Fr3,000 by an unidentified blond man wearing tweeds and extracted in the French press yesterday.

Pluie amie, es-tu venue pour moi/Pour me dire que le ciel/D'autrefois/Sait encore les couleurs et les larmes que j'aime?

Premier accord

Chaque matin de Louis brève amant
elle bécotaient sous le lit. Pendant p-
présentait ses se poitrine dans la chambre.
Vint de son poignait bleu, cheveux de ses
mains blanches broches d'or. Elle aimait cette
hausse à l'heure du jour.

An excerpt from the Mitterrand manuscript

Seveso legacy clouds future of Italian disaster relief

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

TWENTY years after one of the worst chemical disasters in Europe, Italy is still grappling with its handling of environmental emergencies. Edo Ronchi, Minister for the Environment, said he was disturbed that Italy was facing a new pollution threat at Lake Maggiore, near the

Swiss border, where levels of DDT from a chemical plant are reportedly 20 times the permitted limit.

People in Seveso, near Milan, yesterday recalled the nightmare that changed their lives and which helped to spawn the environmental movement which was to become a potent political force. On July 10, 1976, a cloud of poison gas spread across the area after an explosion at a chemical

factory owned by Icmesa, a subsidiary of Roche, the Swiss giant. Thousands of people were evacuated, but hundreds still developed skin rashes, burns and liver and kidney problems. Scores of farm animals died as the gas, dioxin, settled across a swath of land several miles wide. There followed confusion among the authorities and residents who had been evacuated resorted to violent

protest when they were not allowed back to their homes after three months living in makeshift accommodation in Milan. Twenty years on, the Icmesa chemicals plant has disappeared. Houses in the contaminated area were demolished, along with the factory, and 400 acres of soil and vegetation were incinerated. The Seveso site is now a park, officially

opened yesterday, despite the doubts of some environmentalist groups. Local residents said they wanted the image of Seveso to change. "This is not Chernobyl," one said.

A spate of floods and forest fires this summer has raised new questions over Italy's capacity to handle disasters, with allegations of corruption and Mafia involvement in the clean-up operations.

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Dixons There's a great deal going on

The baroness who aims to ambush Portillo

When the Government dreamt up the wheeze of privatising Armed Forces housing to raise £1.6 billion it knew it might irritate a few old generals but it had reckoned without Baroness Park of Monmouth.

Daphne Margaret Sybil Désirée Park is possibly the most daunting woman in Britain. Agatha Christie, John le Carré and Ian Fleming have never matched her exploits as Britain's Queen of Spies. This is a woman who relishes challenges. She was brought up in the wilds of Tanganyika, surrounded by leopards and plagues of locusts.

She has been stationed in Moscow and Ulan Bator, in Mongolia, where she wasn't just giving dinner parties for the Foreign Office but was also an officer for MI6. In Hanoi, during the Vietnam War, she lived in a house of weevils, worms and leaky roofs. While her friends discovered the Greek islands and Tuscany, her holidays were spent "doing research" on post-Stalinist Russia and the civil war in the Belgian Congo.

Baroness Park does not like doing interviews. She believes in public service and thinks that civil servants should keep quiet. But that was until she came across the Government's plans to sell off the Army's married quarters.

When she first read about soldiers' wives being worried about being thrown out of their homes to make way for developers, she thought she would make a "small" speech in the Lords. As she listened to more of the women's concerns, it turned into an amendment. Today, to the Housing Bill. If successful, she will have stalled the sell-off for three months for extensive consultation and there will be a vote on any new proposals. John Major is so worried that he will talk personally to peers before the debate.

Baroness Park was prepared to move quietly behind the scenes until the issue was "hijacked" by Tory politicians. They turned it into a fight between those who support Michael Portillo, the beleaguered Defence Secretary, and those who back the other right-wing heir-apparent, John Redwood.

The Baroness was not amused. Having never met Mr Redwood,

Baroness Park of Monmouth is campaigning against the sale of army housing. Alice Thomson reports

she was incensed to be thought in "his camp". Although a Tory peer, she hates being attached to any dogma and she certainly did not want to share a political bed with a fellow from All Souls College who did not appear to have much nous. This, she insisted, was not a political issue, but a national defence issue. She decided that she would suffer the embarrassment of an interview.

As we sit in her living room, travel rugs over our knees to keep out the cold, a Thermos of coffee and coconut biscuits on the table, the 75-year-old baroness says: "The Armed Forces are punch-drunk with all the changes they have had to suffer in the past few years and all the redundancies. The wives have so little security in their lives anyway. Many move 30 times in a career and each time they have to find new schools, new doctors and new part-time jobs. Their husbands often spend long tours abroad. Their compounds are the one thing they all used to feel secure about, but now they are under threat."

Under government proposals, the contractors that buy the properties will then lease them back or will find other "comparable" accommodation. **M** Portillo has promised that compounds will not be split and families will not be forced to move. "The service chiefs have to back the plans because they are not supposed to be political and the officers are expected to be loyal to the last," she says. "It is up to peers and MPs to come to their defence. There are not nearly enough safeguards preventing unscrupulous contractors from cherry-picking the best properties and leaving army families with mouldy

housing scattered miles away from their bases. Some wives are becoming so dispirited that they will push their husbands away."

Baroness Park believes that the Government whittles away at Army morale and the defence budget at its peril. She is convinced that the former Soviet Union is still a major threat to world peace, and explains that its defence programme is alive and kicking. It includes building a series of new submarines, which will leave Britain looking stupid if hostilities start.

"Our Armed Forces are vital and yet they are being treated more shoddily than failed supermarkets. It is all ghastly," she says.

Peers from all sides, who know about the years Baroness Park spent in Moscow, bow to her superior knowledge. Many will follow her tonight despite the Government's heavy lobbying and even if she fails, her speech is bound to leave ministers feeling jittery.

Baroness Park is more Miss Marple than Mata Hari. First there is her appearance: sensible shoes, pendant round her neck, cardigan, beady brown eyes and quizzical eyebrows. Then there is the functional 1930s flat in olives and browns with neat piles of paper everywhere. She has an extraordinarily self-confident stillness about her which inspires people to confide in her. Only her anecdotes are from the Russian steppes rather than St Mary Mead.

She will not admit to being a secret servant, merely asking: "I presume you know what I used to do?" While discussing why a stable family base is so important to Army life, she explains that her father was a Nyasaland Frontier Force intelligence officer, tobacco grower and gold prospector. She received her education from reading to her

mother who was going progressively blind and then through a correspondence course. The books would often arrive waterlogged because the runner had had to wade across rivers. Her brother, David, died of typhoid at 14. At ten her parents saved up for her to live with her grandmother in Streatham and she did not see them again until she was 28.

She says her childhood was "very stable" because her grandmother and great-aunts indulged her, allowing her to stay up at night listening to the wireless or do her homework at Sam.

She also loved her local school and was very much the St Trinian's girl with inkly hands and thick-rimmed spectacles. Even at 18, Baroness Park knew she did not want to be a teacher or nurse. After Oxford, she craved excitement and during the war worked in the Special Operations Executive. It was a short step to MI6. "I loved my job—it was incredibly exciting, painfully so sometimes, but very worthwhile. Everyone you worked with was so intelligent and brave and we all trusted each other. The whole thing about double-dealing is perfect nonsense," she says.

She retired to a full-time job as Principal of Somerville College, alma mater of Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi and Iris Murdoch, where she captivated her young charges for nine years.

Much of her life has been spent as the only woman among men, but she has never married. It is obvious that it was not through lack of offers; even now she has a coterie of male peers who worship her. Like many of her generation, the person she cared about was killed during the war.

Then for years, she says, it would have been difficult to combine a husband with her job and now she is happy on her own. "I would like someone to do up the back zip of my dress and talk with after a party, but that is all. It's the luck of the draw. I have had a wonderful life with lots of friends. I am an instinctive enjoyer," she says. The issue of army wives has inspired her. "The Lords is my fourth career and it is as fascinating as the rest."



Baroness Park claims the Armed Forces are being treated "more shoddily than failed supermarkets"

'It is up to peers and MPs to come to the Army's defence'

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It's just not cricket

Ian Botham v Imran Khan: not on the green-sward, but in the High Court. A contest, starting on Monday, that is not to do with cricketing skills but with class and integrity. Botham, the working man's hero, is effectively suing Sir James Goldsmith's son-in-law, a likely Prime Minister of Pakistan, over whether or not the Englishman is a gentleman. It is set to be a farce.

A few years ago a spat such as this would have been sorted out in the bar, or, in the case of these two great cricketers, a nightclub such as Tramp, which Pakistani cricketers refer to as Imran's sitting room. Alas, sportsmen, like everybody else, have become increasingly litigious. What is more, high-earning players such as Botham and Imran can now afford to hire leading QCs in, respectively, Charles Gray and George Carman.

The issue is not merely of class, but of race and pride as well. Imran, who has riled Botham by alleging that ball-tampering is rife in English cricket, is a gifted individual of absolute opinions, whose political ambitions, like the cancer hospital he has built in Pakistan, are rarely out of the news. As Jonathan Mermagen, his closest English friend, puts it: "Imran will not back down to that man." Botham's ambitions do not extend beyond the sport's arena, but he is no less stubborn away from it.

The media, of course, will have huge fun at their expense. After the treatment Germany's footballers received from the Daily Mirror, what hope for an aloof Pakistani taking on one of the biggest names in British sport? Ball-tampering has been an emotive issue ever since Allan Lamb, the former England batsman who is

This is no way for gentlemen to behave, says Ivo Tennant



Imran Khan: class action

bringing a separate but related action against Imran, openly accused the 1992 Pakistani team of cheating.

Ball-tampering, which as often as not in the past has meant the lifting of the seam by the dextrous use of a fast bowler's fingernail, is banned. Some umpires and many captains, however, have chosen to ignore this. What started this contretemps was an admission by Imran that he once asked their 12th man to bring out a bottle top with which he could deface the ball and consequently obtain greater movement with it.

Here I must declare an involvement. Imran admitted using this bottle top during one of the interviews he gave when I was preparing a biography of him. We had just had a lengthy discussion about religion, the Koran and the fact

that he had reached 40, what he termed "the age of spirituality". I am convinced that his admission was a form of confession. To his credit, he did not attempt to withdraw the remarks.

Among the cricketers Imran has turned to for support are Clive Lloyd, the former West Indies captain; Mudassar Nazar, a former Pakistani colleague; Phil Edmunds, his one good friend among English opponents; and Derek Pringle, the former England all-rounder who is prepared to stand by his belief that "any fast bowler worth his salt tampers with the ball". Witnesses involved on behalf of Botham and Lamb include Test cricketers David Gower, Bob Willis, John Emburey, Courtney Walsh, Clive Ambridge, Bob Taylor and an umpire, Don Oslear.

In an interview two years ago, Imran claimed there was a difference in class and upbringing between his detractors, such as Botham and Lamb, and those who comprehended ball-tampering. Pringle, Tony Lewis, a former England captain, and Christopher Martin-Jenkins, the writer and commentator, are all Oxbridge men like himself. Botham, it is true, was educated at a state school and did not go to university, but as a Thatcherite, he sees the definition of class as having more to do with integrity and honour than social standing.

So a matter which should have been resolved amicably is likely to incur costs of more than £500,000. Cricket has always had connotations of fair play and neither Botham nor Imran would wish to be seen in any other light. It was never meant to be a game played in the High Court. Let the victor gain half a penny in damages.

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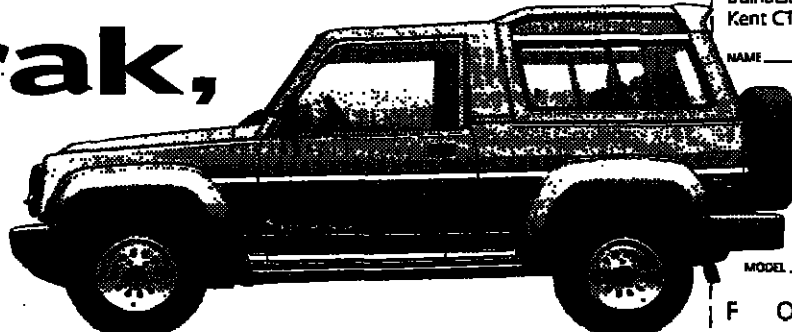
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What is the Law Society really for?

Solicitors' credibility is at stake today, says Frances Gibb

Today solicitors go to the polls in the midst of the first revolution in their history. There have been no elections, but recent months have seen a distinguished profession torn apart by unprecedented backstabbing and hostilities. The old order at the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body in England and Wales, has been acrimoniously displaced. Now some 68,000 solicitors must decide what its future should be.

On the face of it, their choice is simple: should they endorse the presidency of Martin Mears, the Great Yarmouth solicitor who was swept to power last summer on a populist vote, or is it time to replace him with someone more conciliatory?

Large numbers of solicitors are undecided. Perhaps more significantly, many may not return their ballot papers. The Law Society, they feel, is an irrelevance, its activities distant from their day-to-day work. Perhaps they are bemused by recent events. Is Mr Mears for reform or revisionism? Is he an iconoclast, ready to shake up the cosy Law Society, which before last year had seen no contested elections for its leaders in 40 years, or a back-

found it hard to accept that the public did not owe them a living. A few turned to dishonesty, and the compensation bill to be met by the rest of the profession soared — squeezing the small solicitor yet further.

The Law Society, under its former chief executive, John Hayes, has been seeking to lead the profession into this brave new world. Its energies, he says, "need to be directed towards reinforcing a change in the culture of the profession, one which emphasises client care, promotes professional excellence, and does not regard the following of sound business practice as somehow alien to the values of the profession".

He was pragmatic and far-sighted. But for many small firms fighting for survival the change was too much, too soon. It confirmed their view that Chancery Lane was another world. The change also showed the widening gap between the two sides of the profession, the high street solicitor earning no more than a social worker or teacher, and the commercial lawyers in large firms able to meet the new consumerist demands.

This gap has always existed, and it has always created a tension within a society trying to speak both for the larger firms, which contribute the lion's share of its income but have little interest in its affairs, and the small ones, towards which its activities are largely directed.

Should the society be a trade union or a regulator?

Some say the society can and should represent the whole profession and that this can and should be done in harness with regulation. But Mears's revolution has inspired others to challenge such fundamentals. One candidate for the presidency, Anthony Bogan, advocates splitting the society's functions. He is unlikely to command the support of either Mears in the high street, or his rival, Tony Gilling, who has a middle-of-the-road, one-profession appeal. But Bogan's view deserves scrutiny.

It is two years since Martin Mears arrived on the Law Society council, and last summer he was overwhelmingly voted in as president, on a tide of discontent. His view, and that of many others, was that the society has become an expensive, complacent bureaucracy, with 700 staff and a budget of £44 million at a time when law firms have had to tighten their belts. Cut off from the struggles of small firms to meet their overheads and earn a living, the society was deluging them with new rules, management standards and discrimination codes.

Mears's views struck a chord. The solicitors' profession, like others, was in crisis. The recession had coincided with a change in the nature of the job. The staple diet of conveyancing had become the least profitable kind of work, rather than a lucrative line subsidising legal aid. From making up half the profession's earnings in the 1960s, it had fallen to 12 per cent. Legal aid work had also become more tightly controlled, and the perk which allowed solicitors to keep interest on their clients' money was abolished.

On top of all this came consumerism and a shift in the relationship between solicitor and client. A new cut-throat competition emerged between lawyers themselves. Some solicitors, according to one view,

found it hard to accept that the public did not owe them a living. A few turned to dishonesty, and the compensation bill to be met by the rest of the profession soared — squeezing the small solicitor yet further.

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Pray tell

BUCKINGHAM PALACE is considering dropping the Princess of Wales from the Anglican Prayer Book because of the royal divorce. Church of England sources claim that the prayer for the Royal Family, which was amended to include the Princess after she married the Prince of Wales in 1981, will be changed again if she loses the title "Her Royal Highness".

At present, congregations pray for "Elizabeth our Queen, Philip Duke of Edinburgh, Elizabeth the Queen Mother and the Prince and Princess of Wales." The Venerable George Austin, Archdeacon of York, believes an amendment is inevitable. "I think the Princess of Wales would have to come out," he says. "Only the monarch can change the prayer. In the end, the Queen will have to decide."

The Palace says the issue cannot be resolved until the role and status of the Princess of Wales is determined. "It depends what the Princess of Wales is to call herself. The issues are still speculative at this stage."

There are suggestions that the Princess might not be dropped from the prayer until the Prince

succeeds as monarch. But a precedent exists for immediate action. When George IV had trouble with Queen Caroline, he had her dropped from prayers in a trice — and they were still married.

● A journalist ringing round yesterday to discover which honorary degrees various universities had



"Which way did you vote on pay, Tompkins?"



WOMEN BECOME FORGETFUL WHILE MEN GET GRUMPIER (REPORT ON AGEING)

Save the Canova or bust

The poet and critic James Fenton launches the Ashmolean's campaign to keep a great sculpture in Britain

If there is such a thing as compassion fatigue, there must also be heritage rescue fatigue, and if there is heritage rescue fatigue, I imagine that Canova fatigue must also have its familiar clinical symptoms. I am sure that I could hardly have picked a worse moment than the week after the Becket chase fiasco to stand up and plead on the Ashmolean Museum's behalf. The trouble is, one does not choose these moments: they are thrust upon us. Unless a further £80,000 is forthcoming, Canova's *Ideal Head* will be exported on August 9. We desperately want this luminous piece for Oxford.

It has a remarkable story. You will remember that when the French armies under Napoleon swept south through Italy, they took the very best art with them back to the Louvre. The horses of St Mark's, Venice, were placed on the newly built Arc du Carrousel. The *Uffizi* lost, for instance, the *Medici Venus*. The Papal States, under terms of the Treaty of Tolentino in 1797, were forced to yield a hundred masterpieces, including all the most famous sculptures in the Vatican and the Capitoline museums: the *Laocöon*, the *Dying Gladiator*, the *Boy removing a Thorn from his Foot* and so forth.

After the Battle of Waterloo, Pope Pius VII sent Canova, no diplomat but the most famous artist in Europe, to negotiate for the return of Rome's masterpieces. The sculptor nervously made a will, had himself kitted out with an embroidered court dress, with a bag and sword, went to Paris and, arriving on August 29, 1815, took himself off to see Talleyrand at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Everyone knew what Canova's mission must be, and in a few minutes the sculptor found himself out on his ear, in the street, still in his finery — looking, no doubt, like an elaborate piece of interior decorating, and feeling as one does when one is used to wearing a smock, but finds oneself instead kitted out like a four-poster bed.

At that moment, by luck, he was recognised by one of his countrymen, who took him along to see William Richard Hamilton, the British Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Hamilton, I have to say, was an expert at getting sculptures from A to B under adverse circumstances, perhaps the greatest expert of his day. He got the Rosetta Stone from Egypt after the Battle of Alexandria, and the

Elgin Marbles, first from the Parthenon, and later, after they had sunk, from the bottom of the sea.

I am not saying that Hamilton was an entirely savoury character, but when it came to networking he could hardly be bettered: he introduced Canova to Castlereagh, who put him in touch with Wellington, Wilhelm von Humboldt (the Prussian minister), Metternich, the Emperor of Austria and, for good measure, the Tsar of Russia. All pulled together, and the British even agreed to finance the return of the sculptures to Rome, with the Prince Regent chipping in on the advice of the Paymaster General, Charles Long.

On October 1, the restitution began. The horses of St Mark's, which had arrived in Paris two decades before, preceded by real lions and followed by dromedaries, were taken down from the Carrousel Arch. The next day (as Francis Haskell and Nicholas Penny tell us in *Taste and the Antique*), "Canova, backed by Allied bayonets, and above all by the friendship of the English diplomat William Hamilton, began his operations. After difficulties of every kind, the wagons carrying what were still the most famous sculptures in the world arrived in Rome on January 4,

1816." The scene of their return was painted by Francesco Hayez in a lunette in a new wing of the Vatican Museum. Amazingly enough, he painted this only three years after François Gérard had been commissioned by the Louvre to paint a mural showing "the arrival in Paris of the masterpieces of art conquered by the Treaty of Tolentino".

Canova didn't get all his masterpieces back, because Louis XVIII sneakily put several of the pictures into royal apartments, to which he absolutely refused access. The Pope didn't press the point. Everyone admitted that Canova had been remarkably successful, and he himself was keen to thank the people to whom he owed his success. So he carved four "ideal heads" and inscribed them to Wellington, Castlereagh, Charles Long and Hamilton.

The Wellington head is still in Apsley House and the Castlereagh head is still in the possession of the Londonderry family. The Charles Long head went to Fort Worth, Texas. The head the Ashmolean wants to buy passed by descent through the Hamilton heirs until, as I understand it, it was inherited by more than one person but none of the heirs was

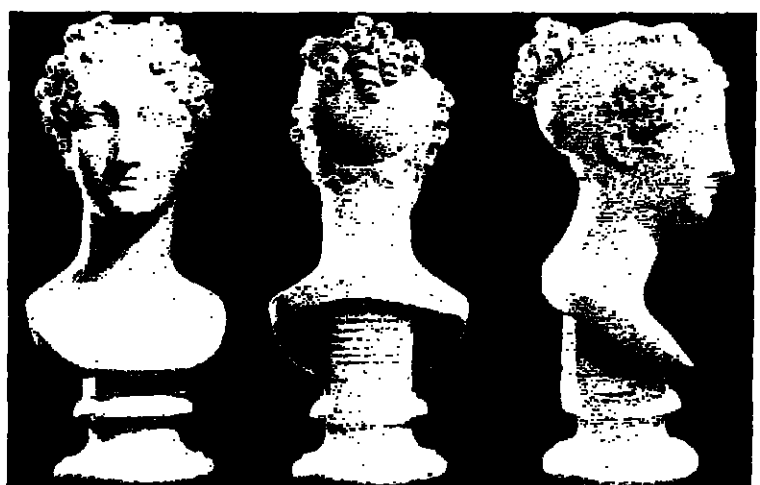
in a position to buy the others out. Despite this perfectly pukka provenance, nobody knew, when the piece came up at auction last year, whether it would make a high figure or whether Canova fatigue would let it against it. I have read that the market was asleep. Not so. The piece had been carefully written up by the great Canova expert Hugh Honour, and was widely publicised. The dealer who bought it for just under £400,000 was lucky.

It is exasperating for the public to read that a piece that sold for such a price last December will now cost £746,000 to save for the nation. A part of this mark-up is VAT, but the rest is, of course, profit. I have to say that it is just as exasperating for a museum to operate in this way as it is for the public. But the Ashmolean has a purchase fund of only £40,000 a year. It cannot possibly intervene at the auction stage — and, of course, if it had bid, it might well have driven up the price.

There is no scandal in this case. This is only the system at work. The system is that when the Export Licence Review Committee has deliberated, and in this case made the Canova bust a starred item, then the people from the V & A choose a champion, an appropriate museum to go out and fight, like Horatius on the bridge. The Ashmolean could, of course, decline the honour of being the champion, but it has been chosen because the bust is of profound national and aesthetic significance, and profoundly appropriate as an addition to its collection.

So the museum not only desires but has a duty to put itself forward as a purchaser. And this involves the sacrifice of all kinds of departmental funds, the scraping together of everything available. So far, £100,000 has been raised in this way, including money from the Friends and the Pilgrim Trust. The shortfall of £80,000 is the sum needed before the meeting of the National Heritage Memorial Fund on July 23. Before that meeting, our case goes before the National Art Collections Fund. If both these decisions go against us, we shall all be chucked in the Tiber, without having had the honour of successfully defending our heritage — the honour this Canova bust happens to be all about.

The author is Professor of Poetry at Oxford University. William Rees-Mogg is away.



Three views of one *Ideal Head*: £80,000 to defend our heritage

seem to be short of real work. Mrs Mowatt's parents, we must assume, will bail the couple out before they have to sell their grisly, unpurged story.

Small band

SUPPORT for the Orangemen in Portadown comes from young Tories at Oxford University. They have formed the Londonderry Club in celebration of the Union, and in despair at the stance of Conservative high command in London. "We're furious that the IRA nationalist argument is never opposed properly," whines Paul Ingham, the far-right PPE student at left-wing Wadham who founded the club.

Central Office has taken a dim view of the organisation, and is apparently trying to nip it in the bud. For fear of jeopardising their future careers, cowardly young Conservatives are already cutting their links: "Don't know anything about it," blubbers one. "Yes, I am treasurer but no, I'm really nothing to do with it," stammers another.

Organ donor

ALEXANDRA MARUCHA, 23, a second-year Polish organist at

the Royal Academy of Music, is a surprise addition to the celebrations for Sir Edward Heath's 80th birthday. She is the recipient of the £2,500 Sir Edward Heath Award for Organ, donated to the birthday boy by his old chum Jack Lyons.

Ted is particularly delighted, as he was organist at Balliol when he was at Oxford. However, Miss Marucha is not expected to jump out of his birthday cake.

● A triumphant week for birthdays. Sir Edward Heath reached 80 on Tuesday; Dame Barbara Cartland celebrated her 95th with a sugary pink cake. And on Sunday the indefatigable Betty Kenward, former social editor of *Tatler* and the original "Jennifer", will let her hair down for her 90th. "It will be church in the morning before a family dinner party," she tells me.

Little voter

A RADIANT and pregnant Jemima Goldsmith was the star turn at the opening in west London of Ford & Tomkins, an interior design shop co-founded by her friend Vicky Tompkins, heir to the Green Shield Stamps fortune.

Jemima was talking political campaigns: not about her husband in Pakistan, but about her father.



Jemima, starting early on the campaigning trail

Sir James Goldsmith, in Putney, where he plans to stand as Referendum candidate against David Mellor. She is hoping for a spring election — so that she can take her child out campaigning. "I'm definitely going to take to the campaign trail because I love my Daddy," she said. "I can strap the baby on, and then off we go!"

P-H-S

Marching to the IRA's tune

Don't squeeze the Orangemen, says

Ellis O'Hanlon

Irish republicans still vehemently deny that grateful Catholics came out in the early 1970s to welcome incoming British soldiers with cups of tea. Equally, they now pour scorn on the idea that Catholics used to come out in strength to see the lodges of the Protestant Orange Order march down their traditional routes.

I was born in 1965, and grew up in Belfast during the Troubles of the early 1970s in a staunchly Catholic, republican family in the working-class north of the city. I vividly recall trotting north to the corner as a child to watch the Twelfth of July parades. What it was all about I had, of course, no notion, but none of my Protestant or Catholic neighbours ever communicated to me the slightest sense that I was witnessing a sinister triumphalist procession by alien Planters claiming the right to rule me and my kind.

Orange Order parades may have been the focus for periodic disorder; few things in Northern Ireland are not. But in those days, Orange marches held few of the sectarian associations with which republican mythology now invests them. Though as children we often sang obscene variations of Protestant anthems without quite knowing what our words meant, the sombre marchers in bowler hats and bright orange sashes were not bogymen to be feared, but a harmlessly eccentric diversion.

No did subsequent encounters with the blunt edge of loyalist extremism do anything to change that benign perception of the Orange Order. Even after my family and I were forced out of our home by loyalist bullies; even after we moved to a part of the city where Orange marches simply did not pass; even after a bomb was thrown through our front window by loyalist paramilitaries — still the television was tuned in to live coverage of the Twelfth of July parades, as it was in Catholic homes throughout the North. Nobody forced nationalists to participate in this way in the day's proceedings; they chose to do so, perhaps recognising that what they saw on that day was, for good or ill, a part of what Ulster — and Ireland as a whole — is about.

Nationalist identity has never been more officially respected than now, so it seems perverse that intercommunal squabbles over the Twelfth are growing more bloodily divisive. Why is it that nationalists now object so strongly to expressions of Protestant identity which, in harder times, they largely tolerated?

The truth is that the change in the nationalist perception of the Orange Order, a change which has led directly to this week's unseemly and potentially explosive stand-off, has been engineered by the IRA/Sinn Féin as part of their strategy of driving Ulster Protestants into a corner. The loyalist street violence which has flared across Northern Ireland in reaction to that stand-off is a dream come true for a republican leadership which had seen itself isolated and discredited as IRA bombs broke the ceasefire.

Republicans have now embarked on a crusade to suppress all the symbols of Protestant state whose days, they believe, are numbered. That the Orange Order is only asking the nationalist residents of the Garvaghy Road for 15 minutes of tolerance every year cuts little ice.

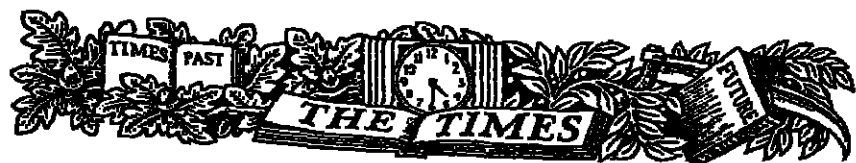
The 18-month period of the IRA ceasefire saw a succession of just such disorderly crusades against Orange Order marches, all of which have been deliberately, cynically promoted by republicans, as a means of continuing a sectarian "war". Catholic residents' associations have been infiltrated by known republicans. Groups which were previously legitimate vehicles of peaceful, democratic protest have been transformed into unofficial battalions of the republican struggle. Those who are not even residents of an area where Protestants march have been invited in to take part in planned disturbances.

Last month a nationalist riot followed the RUC's decision to allow a Royal Black Percepsory march down a certain street in north Belfast. I live far from this area, yet my street was led by the IRA/Sinn Féin activists, urging me to come and join the fun. Those who tried to oppose this racial shift have been intimidated, driven out or replaced. The sort of reasonable compromise seen last year on the Garvaghy Road, when a small, silent group of Orangemen was allowed to pass by, is supported by many residents, but they have been shouted down by those with no interest in reaching inter-tribal agreement.

In their protests about Orange marches, the republicans have found a way to reactivate sectarian conflict in Ulster without being seen as the sole instigators.

The murder of a Catholic taxi driver in Armagh on Monday, the nightly eviction of Catholic families in Belfast and the chilling scenes of potentially uncontrollable street violence all suggest that loyalists have ignored the repeated warnings that they were sleepwalking into a trap and have blundered into it anyway.

The author writes a column for the Dublin Sunday Independent.



VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Foreign investment puts Britain in the fast lane

The largest single foreign investment ever made in Europe has been secured by Newport, with the determined support of the Welsh Development Agency, directly generating 6,100 new jobs and capping a record year for inward investment. This confirms Britain's place in Europe as the location of choice for international business. The £1.7 billion electronics complex planned by LG, the South Korean conglomerate, is particularly gratifying because it is not only large-scale, but constitutes precisely the kind of high-technology investment in tomorrow's growth industries that Britain needs.

The Government can fairly claim this as a vote of confidence. It should be a matter of pride that Britain has secured 40 per cent of total inward investment in the European Union. But this particular deal is not quite the unadulterated triumph for Britain's flexible, deregulated labour marketplace that ministers are naturally at pains to emphasise. The price of the attached sweeteners, at around £30,000 a job, comes close to breaching Treasury guidelines to development authorities. Such deals, however beneficial, ought also to be controversial; the guidelines are a necessary discipline against market distortion.

The Labour Party dares not openly disapprove but hints that its priority would be "backing Britain" by shifting the emphasis of public subsidy to support for local enterprises. However well-intentioned, and however far removed from the bad old ways of George Brown's selective corporation tax, such plans miss the central point. Foreign investment should be welcome not just for the jobs it brings today, but because it is key to Britain's future competitiveness.

These investors do not just create jobs — 114,000 of them in the past three years, plus a further 285,000 jobs safeguarded. They introduce new management ideas, often with striking success; they raise Britain's overall productivity. Often, these investments are on new sites with the most modern technology, but even that does not wholly explain their success. Nor, although

skills certainly matter, does it depend on the quality of manpower available in the region of choice. Northeast England, which had the highest concentration of inward investment last year, boasts Britain's highest manufacturing productivity yet ranks low in terms of the proportion of 16 to 19-year-olds in education or training. The evidence worldwide is that companies with international direct investment portfolios tend to be exceptionally high performers.

The record figures on inward investment over the past year, announced this week, suggest strongly that once it reaches a critical mass, inward investment is self-perpetuating, and that Britain has reached that point. Of the 477 new deals announced last year, 60 per cent were by companies that are already established in this country. Since a third of them are European — 1,500 German companies now operate here — they are evidently not drawn by Britain simply as an entry-point into the single market. Their presence has helped to narrow the gap between the richest and poorest parts of Britain, now smaller than for 20 years, and to reduce unemployment blackspots.

Language counts. So do low non-wage costs and the lowest level of industrial disruption since records began — a point that belies the concern of the Institute of Personnel and Development yesterday that insecurity in the workforce "poses a threat to our competitive performance". Above all, the days are gone when it was heresy to link wages to performance and foreign companies had to end restrictive practices before they could begin.

John Major aims to make Britain the "enterprise centre of Europe". But Europe today is in the slow lane; the EU is the world's slowest-growing region and likely to remain that way. Britain should aim higher. All surveys of global competitiveness list open markets as a key factor. Britain, as the world's second largest investor overseas, has adjusted to globally-based manufacturing better than its EU neighbours. That is why investors come; that is why they will stay.

BUSINESS IN FRANCE

When corporations must be run from a prison cell

Even before he ended 14 years as President of France, François Mitterrand's last years were clouded by embarrassing wartime revelations and corrupt business associates. Although the tirelessly conspiratorial Mitterrand had for years succeeded in suppressing much of his personal history, the truth seeped out in the end. The scale of corruption in the biggest French boardrooms is emerging only after his death.

A quarter of the bosses of France's top 40 companies are under investigation for fraud or corruption. That suggests not merely greedy and illegal behaviour by a few rotten apples. A rotten boardroom culture seems to have pervaded the giant French firms which dominate the transport, telecommunications, banking and construction industries. Some of these firms are private, some state-owned, some a mixture; all are in some sense under the influence of the State. If France wishes to convince foreign investors that its culture can be honest and open, the truth must be forced into the open.

The key is a strong and independent magistracy. Only the stubborn work of a few investigating magistrates has ensured that once-powerful men are heading, albeit slowly, for jail. Over the past three years, 30 people at the top of big French companies have been snared in criminal inquiries; only two cases have been completed and one man convicted. Bitter Parisian voices may denounce the magistracy for bias; but the delays which hamper the excavation of the truth are more serious problems than the alleged defects of magistracy.

No industrial society is wholly free of corruption. Less tainted public cultures combine fast and thorough investigation, exemplary punishment and evident public disapproval. All members of the society can

see that the powerful will be held to account. France's elite still acts as if either public opinion is irrelevant or that cupidity will be easily forgiven. France's leading newscaster was convicted of accepting gifts from a businessman and promptly returned to reading the news as if nothing had happened. Such indulgence is hard to imagine being extended to any equally prominent television figurehead in this country. France's railway system, including the high-speed trains which draw envious sighs from British holidaymakers, is currently being managed from the prison cell where its chief executive now resides.

France's postwar economy was built amid a shortage of capital: the State stepped in to fill the gap. The State's servants stepped in as managers. For the most part they belong to the close-knit and highly trained administrative elite produced by the *grandes écoles*. They moved too easily between desks in ministers' outer offices and jobs running huge companies. Intoxicated by the pace of modernisation and privatisation in the 1980s, some cut corners, built swimming pools and pumped illicit money into political parties on the quiet.

The most powerful argument that the current President and Prime Minister should deploy against this infection is that such wrongdoing damages the country's international economic reputation. Vandal and offhand plundering of public money also breeds a dangerous mistrust among voters. President Chirac cannot have forgotten that in the first round of the election which he won last year, 40 per cent of the votes cast went to fringe candidates campaigning against the governing class. The checks on French corruption must be sustained for the sake of France.

DEGREES OF COMMISSION

Mandela's massive haul reflects wider academic trend

As part of the many justified tributes that Nelson Mandela has received during his state visit to Britain, the South African leader saw the face of modern British higher education yesterday. No fewer than eight of our universities — Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, De Montfort, Glasgow Caledonian, London, Nottingham, and Warwick — all queued up to award honorary degrees at a whirlwind Buckingham Palace ceremony. This affair had been preceded by some brutal competition among a wider field as to who would bestow the accolades.

The honorary degree has taken on new prominence in recent times. Until the 20th century the act of studying and the practice of receiving a degree were rather separate issues. This may still seem a familiar story to many working in British education today. The gilded youth of the aristocracy who went to universities in the Victorian era rarely lowered themselves to public examination.

Most of those who received degrees then did so on an honorary basis, being well above the tedium of following a syllabus. In some cases there was little choice. Oxford admitted women as students some four decades before it permitted them to sit for certificates. Even today the two ancient universities award MAS on the basis of a small cheque.

When from the 1920s it became expected that courses were completed and examinations taken seriously, the honorary article appeared something of an anachronism. This had not been helped by the extraordinary decision of Oxford, long the pioneers of this particular art-form, to award one to the Kaiser some five years before the outbreak of the Great War. For 30 years the prize had little role in public life. Its standing was revived in the 1960s when the ceremonies awarding trinkets to various establishment worthies became a useful excuse for student protests. Infamy was reached by Oxford's churlish refusal to offer one to Margaret Thatcher in 1985.

In recent times, however, the whole affair has become big business — a means by which universities can attract both patronage from potential financial contributors and publicity from various celebrities. *Who's Who* now grows under the strain of this shameless generosity.

Nelson Mandela is in a league of his own — not only worthy and famous but meritorious as well. No wonder gowns were drawn at dawn over the pecking order. In an odd way this is the highest compliment he could have been paid. Who else would bring both Oxford and Cambridge to London?

Unionists' part in Orange disorder

From Mr Brendan Turley

Sir, After his election as leader of the Ulster Unionist Party last year, David Trimble encouraged many by his apparent readiness to move the UUP away from its formal link with the Orange Order.

His presence at Drumcree, however, amidst disgraceful scenes of intimidation and violence across the province, demonstrates clearly that those links are as strong as ever. It also demonstrates his lack of political judgment, for it will merely confirm to a wider audience that, for all his fine rhetoric, David Trimble's actions are those of an old-style Unionist for which the world at large has little sympathy.

Yours faithfully,
BRENDAN TURLEY,
12a Elizabeth Mews,
Belzise Park, NW3,
July 9.

From Mr Martin Griffiths

Sir, After months in which worldwide support for the IRA has dropped dramatically, Unionist/Orangemen leaders have now presented the world's media with pictures of their and their supporters' sectarian violence and utterly unreasonable intransigence. No doubt many Irish-Americans are already reaching for their cheque books to give a new infusion of cash to the IRA as a direct consequence of the Drumcree standoff.

I despair.
Yours faithfully,
M. L. GRIFFITHS,
1 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, EC4,
July 10.

From Mr J. P. Knight

Sir, If it is true that a satisfactory settlement in Ulster largely depends upon the support of the rest of the United Kingdom, have not the antics of the Orangemen in the last few days done more to alienate that support than 20 years of IRA killings?

Would it be harsh to characterise their behaviour as crass?
Yours faithfully,
PETER KNIGHT,
Greenbank, West Burton,
Leysburn, North Yorkshire,
July 10.

From the Reverend

William E. K. Allander

Sir, Orange Order marchers fight their own police in their demand to parade through a "Catholic" area. "Rights" rather than the feelings of neighbours govern conduct, with the apparent full support of Unionist leaders Trimble and Paisley.

The conflict at the Drumcree Road illustrates only too clearly what lies at the root of the Northern Ireland conflict.

Yours faithfully,
W. E. K. ALLANDER,
12 Richmond Park,
Blackrock Road, Cork,
July 9.

Slight to St George

From the Reverend

Charles Praeger, SJ

Sir, Has St George been slighted as Professor Colman suggests (letter, July 6)? The celebration of his day is optional worldwide but not in England, where it ranks as a Feast, second highest of the four grades of celebration (Optional Memorial, Obligations Memorial, Feast, Solemnity). Sixty years ago it was, worldwide, fifth highest of six.

Many saints' days are now optional because the saint celebrated is not considered of worldwide importance (in fact July 6 saw one such, the Italian St Maria Goretti, who died in 1902 while resisting rape). Locally they may rank far higher.

It seems a fair solution to the problem of a crowded calendar.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES PRAEGER SJ,
St Wilfrid's Presbytery,
1 Windley Square,
Preston, Lancashire,
July 9.

Turin Shroud

From Canon James Cunneane

Sir, You report today that the Turin scientists have presented "new evidence" which suggests that a coin of Pontius Pilate from AD29 can be discerned above the left eye of the Holy Shroud, thus validating the shroud.

I have a set of 96 slides, together with a tape and booklet, making that very case in rich detail. They are by the late Father Francis L. Filas, SJ, of Loyola University, Chicago. The second and revised edition is dated 1982. It has always seemed to me that Father Filas's cogent research has been cruelly ignored. Now someone else claims the credit. As to the C14 carbon dating made in 1988, existing doubts as to its accuracy have been fortified by recent Russian research.

"New evidence" indeed!

Yours faithfully,
JAMES CUNNEANE,
Catholic Church of Our Lady
of the Taper,
Cardigan, Dyfed,
July 8.

Business letters, page 27
Sport letters, page 40

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

BA's American link-up taken to task

From the Chairman of the Virgin Group of Companies

Sir, Far from lacking balance, as the Chief Executive of British Airways, Robert Ayling, suggests (letter, July 10), your leader of July 9 about the proposed merger between BA and American Airlines aptly summed up the anti-competitive nature of this would-be giant.

For all Mr Ayling's bluster, the facts speak for themselves. BA and American together would dominate the market. To all intents and purposes they would have a monopoly of routes between the UK and US. Despite the press and lobbying campaigns now belatedly being launched by BA (this laudably being a sign of BA's arrogance in thinking that the merger would be nodded through by competition authorities), no one will be fooled into believing that monopolies bring down prices and improve services.

Mr Ayling makes much of competition for the BA/American monopoly coming from continental Europe. What nonsense. Less than 1 per cent of London passengers currently travelling to the US do so via continental Europe. What traveller wants to add three or four hours to his journey time? BA knows that it will be as secure in the future at its Heathrow fortress as it has been in the past — indeed, more so since the merger will remove one of its principal Heathrow competitors.

Mr Ayling also argues that it is still

possible to get slots at Heathrow. True, in the middle of the night when no one wants to travel, I can absolutely guarantee that Virgin Atlantic would be operating many more routes out of Heathrow today if we had been able to obtain the necessary slots.

If Mr Ayling believes what he says, let him take up this challenge. Virgin Atlantic will apply for Heathrow slots to operate any current BA route to the US, chosen by BA, at a viable time. If we fail to get them, Mr Ayling should hand over BA slots to allow us to start the service. If he is right that slots are available, what is the risk?

Mr Ayling is, however, correct about one thing. Britain is a world leader in air transport. It has been successful because of the activities of airlines such as Virgin Atlantic and British Midland, which have forced BA to become more efficient and improve its service.

I would not for one moment deny that BA is now a good and highly profitable airline, which is one of the reasons why I do not believe it needs to merge with American to continue being a world-class carrier. But what Mr Ayling is offering is a return to the bad old days of airline cartels when BA really was Bloody Awful.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD BRANSON,
Chairman,
Virgin Group of Companies,
120 Campden Hill Road, W8,
July 10.

Christians in Kuwait

From the Ambassador of Kuwait

Sir, I must take issue with certain of your allegations about Kuwaiti businessmen. Robert Hussein (reports, July 6, 8; leading article, July 6).

In June, Mr Hussein was declared an apostate, a term used to describe someone who has converted from Islam to Christianity. This declaration was made because Mr Hussein's wife sued him for divorce. They were married under Islamic law and this divorce was granted on the grounds that there were irreconcilable differences between them because of Mr Hussein's conversion.

Kuwait law does not punish its citizens if they change religion. As you reported, the Kuwaiti Constitution guarantees freedom of belief. Article 29 says: "All people are equal in human dignity, and in public rights and duties before the law, without distinction as to race, origin, language or religion."

Kuwait's Christian and Muslim communities live in harmony and, as Article 35 of the Constitution states: "Freedom of belief is absolute. The state protects every individual's right to practise their beliefs." The lack of

religious discrimination in Kuwait is borne out by the fact that churches have existed there for many decades.

Mr Hussein's claims that he is being persecuted because of his new religious status are simply not true. He has not been stripped of any rights as a citizen, his passport has not been invalidated, nor is he the subject of a travel ban.

Yours faithfully,
KHALED AL-DUWAISAN,
Ambassador of the State of Kuwait,
30 Old Burlington Street, W1,
July 10.

From Mr Ganesh Lall

Sir, For a country which owes its very survival to the sacrifice of Christian lives, Kuwait's persecution of Christians is nothing short of ingratitude.

The feeling of outrage is magnified by the fact that Christians enjoy full freedom of worship in Iraq, which genuinely upholds both the letter and spirit of the Holy Prophet's message that in matters of religion there should be no compulsion.

I am, yours respectfully,
GANESH LALL,
The Common Room,
Middle Temple, EC4.

Animal welfare

From Mr John Bryant

Sir, Lord Mancroft (letter, July 1) seeks to discredit the International Fund for Animal Welfare (letter, July 8) and the League Against Cruel Sports by labelling them as "hardline animal rights groups". Hardline? Both groups campaign legally within the democratic system and both publicly condemn the use of crime, violence and intimidation in the name of animal rights. Neither group even promotes veganism or vegetarianism.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRYANT (Wildlife officer),
League Against Cruel Sports,
Sparling House,
83-87 Union Street, SE1,
July 8.

From Mr Alasdair Mitchell

Sir, Libby Purves' splendid diatribe against the animal rights trends who have captured the RSPCA council ("The cruelty of kindness", July 2) articulated what many of us feel.

Yet I wonder why she halted the definition of "blood sports" short of fishing. The extremists make no such distinction. In view of the recent National Anti-Fishing Week, it would be interesting to know the official views of the RSPCA on this.

Yours sincerely,
ALASDAIR MITCHELL,
50 Northumberland Avenue,
Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne,
July 2.

Somme sacrifice

From Mr Raymond Garlick

Sir, The Canon Treasurer of St Paul's Cathedral suggests (letter, July 6) that the appalling British casualties at the Somme were not in vain because, according to the German General Ludendorff, "The Somme was the muddy grave of the German field army". This appears to mean that terrible slaughter on one side was not utterly pointless because it achieved terrible slaughter on the other.

On the day when the moral debate made the headlines, what kind of morality is this?

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND GARLICK,
26 Glanant Flats,
College Road, Carmarthen, Dyfed,
July 6.

Missing option

From Mr R. Galer

Sir, In the recent Russian election the ballot papers had a box marked "against all candidates".

Could we please have this on our ballot papers in the future?
Yours faithfully,
R. GALER,
8 Brighton Mews, Pembroke,
July 8.

Living expenses

From Dr D. C. Ferris

Sir, Am I right in supposing that the logical conclusion of a recent trend in litigation is that we should all take action against our parents to recover the expenses involved in life, on the grounds that they caused us to incur them without obtaining our prior consent?

Yours faithfully,
D. C. FERRIS,
62 Argyle Road, Exeter, Devon,
July 8.

As you were . . .

From Mr J. K. Morland

Sir, Now that Nelson Mandela has become a pillar of the establishment, can we expect all the trendy left-wing councils to rename the streets named after him?

Yours faithfully,
J. K. MORLAND,
New House, Chapel Leys,
Moorhurst Lane,
South Holmwood, Dorking, Surrey,
July 10.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Defence of Carey's morality crusade

From Dr Andrew Purkis, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Secretary of Public Affairs

Sir, I was pleased to see the correspondence (July 8) supporting the Archbishop of Canterbury from Simon Jenkins's derogatory attack ("No more feel-smug factor", July 6). The Archbishop had initiated Friday's Lords debate about the moral and spiritual dimension of education: Mr Jenkins contends that Dr Carey's words on these matters have no links to action. This is demonstrably false.

Church schools are among those that are busy trying to translate the ideas in the Archbishop's speech into practice day by day, which may explain why they are so conspicuously popular among parents. There are abundant links between the Archbishop's words in his speech in the Lords and the real world of policy, teaching and support of teachers.

Simon Jenkins fails to engage with Dr Carey's argument that there are important shared values which are not just matters of individual opinion and which, for example, come to the surface in the aftermath of the tragedies like the Dunblane massacre. The Archbishop did not claim exclusive authority for the Church in these matters. On the contrary, he emphasised that the whole of society, including people of other faiths and those who profess no religion, needs to be involved in defining and "owning up" to these shared values and supporting schools in transmitting them. To say that all the Archbishop "really" has to propose is "go to church" is a preposterous misrepresentation.

Mr Jenkins seems to think he is refuting the Archbishop's arguments by pointing out the reality of moral dilemmas; but the Archbishop himself said in his speech:

We all know that the toughest moral decisions are not always between right and wrong, but between two "rights" which pull in different directions. So we desperately need our young people to learn both the basic rules and the judgment with which to confront the constant dilemmas of life.

Simon Jenkins finishes with another grotesque caricature: "Since the dawn of time, the old have decimated the young as degenerate and summoned a crusade to lift them from moral squalor . . ." Could he actually have read the Archbishop's speech? The Archbishop said:

I hope we can avoid . . . a temptation to drift into a "golden age" mood in which we assume that in the past our people were better, more moral and more decent people than we are now. This is at best an unhelpful oversimplification. We should not, for example, underestimate the strong moral concern of many young people today as manifested in their concern over many forms of human suffering or over the environment.

Perhaps such an example of modern journalism would be a good subject of discussions in school classes about morality and society.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW PURKIS,
Lambeth Palace, SE1,
July 8.

Handsome is . . .

From Mr A. H. P. Humphrey

Sir, The answer to Mr Tim Daw's question (letter, July 8), surely, that ugliness should be measured in negative milliHens (ie, minus one milli-Helen sinks one ship) and not in a different unit altogether as proposed by Mr Peter Rashbrook (letter, July 9).

Yours faithfully,
A. H. P. HUMPHREY,
14 Ambrose Place,
Worthing, West Sussex,
July 9.

From Mr Brian A. Mullan

Sir, Mr Rashbrook suggests milligrams as a measure of ugliness. May I suggest that the measurement should be in milliduckings. With only one milliduckling, the chances of becoming a beautiful swan are really quite good.

Yours faithfully,
B. A. MULLAN,
153 Manthorpe Road,
Grantham, Lincolnshire,
July 9.

From Mr Rupert Jones

Sir, Perhaps the definition of a milligram as being the ugliness necessary to sink one ship may be a little extreme. Would it not be better applied to that sufficient to curdle one pint of fresh milk?

Yours faithfully,
RUPERT JONES,
Plas Treacast, Beaumaris, Anglesey,
July 9.

From Mr William Herrington

Sir, Surely, rather than Mr Rashbrook's milligrams, it is more appropriate that ugliness be measured by the gross.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM HERRINGTON,
78 Madrid Road, SW13,
July 9.

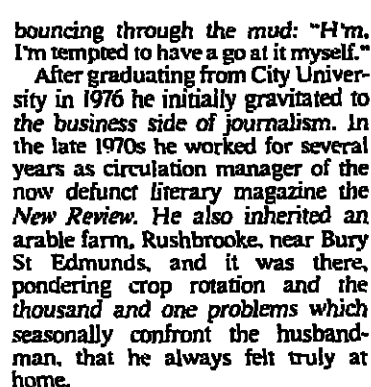
From Mr Clive Anthony Shaw

Sir, The measure of ugliness is the Quasimodo, it being the unit which will make one Esmeralda swoon.

Yours truly,
CLIVE ANTHONY SHAW,
9 Nursery Close,
Hailsham, East Sussex,
July 8.

THE HON AMSCHEL ROTHSCHILD

Melvin Belli, American trial lawyer, died in San Francisco on July 9 aged 88. He was born in Sonora, California, on July 29, 1907.



He married, in 1981, Anita, third daughter of the merchant banker James Guinness. They had a son and two daughters, who with his wife, survive him.

As such, he was also "representative and heir-general of King Charles I". He was twelfth in direct line of descent from King James I, which made him the Stuart pretender to the British Throne. Had the Old Pretender forsworn

But Belli did not die a rich man. A messy divorce in 1988 from his fifth wife, Lia, cost him millions in what was said

ated to
uld no

How good is your holiday insurance?

By TONY DAWE

AS THE holiday season reaches its peak, millions of tourists are being warned that they could be heading abroad both unprepared and uninformed about the health risks they face.

Estimates by the insurance industry suggest that 600,000 of the 8.5 million people travelling abroad this summer will require medical assistance and doctors and travel chiefs fear that many will end up paying thousands of pounds for the treatment they receive.

The bills will arise because holidaymakers have failed to take out adequate insurance or have relied on the Department of Health's E111 form, which is supposed to guarantee healthcare for UK citizens in European and other countries.

Concern is being voiced by both politicians and the travel trade about the efficiency of the system intended to warn tourists about infectious diseases abroad. The concern follows a serious outbreak of legionnaires' disease affecting several Britons in a Turkish hotel last summer, and an outbreak of cholera in Penang, Malaysia, this spring.

The warnings about the E111 system and the levels of cover provided by some credit card travel insurance have come, predictably, from the insurance industry, but even the Health Department advises: "In countries with which the UK has mutual healthcare agreements, the arrangements may not cover all the expenses you can incur."

The warnings are backed by independent doctors, including Peter Barrett, senior medical consultant to Medical Advisory Services for Travellers Abroad, a private company set up in

conjunction with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

"As members of the European Community, it is the right of every British traveller to receive reciprocal health care in EC countries and some others, but only in an emergency and only to the standard which a citizen of that country might be offered, which is not always what you might expect in the UK," he says. "Travelers should not rely on the E111 and should take out extra cover, which is not expensive."

Bupa Travel Services says that in France, for example, tourists receiving treatment in an approved hospital would be responsible for paying a quarter of the total cost as well as a fixed daily charge, and in Australia they would have to pay for ambulance travel, some doctors' fees and all prescribed medicines.

Julie Philpott, marketing director of Columbus Travel Insurance, says: "In Spain, state hospitals are few and far between and it is standard practice for patients to be taken to a private clinic. Even when they are lucky enough to go to a state hospital, they can still be expected to pay for about 40 per cent of all medicines prescribed."

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's Shadow Consumer Minister, is leading demands for an improved early-warning system for tourists about infectious diseases abroad. He says that during the legionnaires' disease outbreak in Turkey last year, ministers waited until nine people had caught the disease and 1,250 British tourists had stayed at the hotel before issuing any proactive advice.



About 70 per cent of Thermalia Travel customers are women because, it says, they know how to look after themselves

Britons return to take the waters

By HARVEY ELLIOTT AND JEMMA COOPER

A HOLIDAY craze which faded more than 100 years ago is making a comeback as health-conscious Britons return to spas and hot water springs.

Spa holiday centres, which reached their peak of popularity in the middle of the 19th century, are again attracting record numbers of visitors of all ages anxious to cleanse their bodies of modern ailments and pollutants.

The rebirth of spa treatments began in France about ten years ago when thalassotherapy centres were built along the Mediterranean and west coasts. Today France has 45 of the 65 centres that have sprung up around the world. Air France Holidays has launched a special package brochure featuring eight principal centres, in an attempt to tap into the burgeoning UK market.

Though no longer the exclusive preserve of the rich and famous, spa holidays can still be expensive. Six nights

at the Hotel Hermitage in Monaco, for example, costs £1,835 including seawater baths, underwater massage, pressurised jets of water and body wraps, while a six-day British Airways Holidays package at the Grand Mirage in Bali during July and August costs £1,179.

Pel Tours specialise in packages to Israel and the Middle East, with a fortnight of treatments at the Dead Sea costing from £1,092.

One of the most exclusive is the Chiva-Som health resort in Thailand. Five nights in the pampered luxury of the £16.8 million development along one of Thailand's most attractive beaches costs £1,598 per person through Simply Tropix. Tour operators claim a big increase in sales - whatever the price.

There are cheaper options with fast growing companies such as Thermalia Travel of Finchley Road, London, offering a week at any one of 13 destinations

for less than £1,000. Most popular are spas in Italy, Hungary and Turkey, with a week in the Italian spa town of Abano Terme costing around £759.

Thermalia has seen a "tremendous" growth in the demand for spa holidays, says managing director Miro Sajfert. "People are tired of routine holidays and want to treat their bodies and minds," he says. "About 70 per cent of our customers are women, because they know how to look after themselves."

However, the number of male customers is climbing, especially in the 30 to 50 age range. Women favour treatments that revitalise and rejuvenate, such as lymph drainage and anti-cellulite, but men prefer "de-stress" programmes such as massage and detoxification.

The age of clients is also falling. "Last year we had a man of 25 who was totally stressed out," says Mr Sajfert. "After a week in a spa, he was brand new."

Card scam added £2,000 to rug bill

By IAN FLETCHER

COLIN WINTER rues the day that he bought a souvenir rug on his Turkish holiday - and inherited a £2,000 credit card bill.

Mr Winter became the innocent victim of a conman when the card transaction slip was altered to inflate the price of the £175 carpet. Now he has been told he is liable to pay the full £2,395 which was charged to his card by the salesman because he does not have proof of the true cost of transaction.

Consumer groups are taking up the case and are warning Britons travelling abroad to beware of falling into the same extortion trap when they use credit cards to buy souvenirs.

Mr Winter, who is a civil servant from Newcastle upon Tyne, decided to buy the rug during a trip he took to Turkey with his mother and sister. "Many other people could have their holiday ruined because their credit card company deals with retailers who set out to rip tourists off," he said.

It was only after he returned home that he discovered the credit card bill was for £2,395, a sum which took him £900

over his credit limit. He realised then that he had not been given the top copy of the transaction slip, but only a written receipt from the salesman.

The card company showed him a slip they had received from Turkey in which the date had been altered and the amount he had signed for looked as though it had had two extra zeros added.

"I have tried to contact the salesman who sold me the carpet direct but it is impossible to find his telephone number in Turkey," he said. "The card company should have a better chance of being able to track him down as he is equipped to take their credit card. They have been really unhelpful, and this is such a lot of money for me to lose."

The National Consumer Council said that millions of Britons are left unprotected and are routinely misled about their legal rights when they use their credit cards at home or abroad. And the case of Mr Winter's carpet should be a warning to holidaymakers this summer to double-check every detail of a credit card transaction before they sign the slip.

Hong Kong flight to be world's longest

THE world's longest non-stop scheduled air service, on which passengers will spend almost 16 hours flying 7,789 miles from Chicago to Hong Kong across Siberia in a jumbo jet, is to be opened next week, Harvey Elliott writes.

Sophisticated satellite navigation methods which enable long-range Boeing 747-400 jets to trim a few vital minutes from the journey time by sticking to inch-perfect tracks, have persuaded United Airlines to launch the new three-times-a-week service.

In 1983, a Korean Airlines flight was shot down by Russian aircraft after it strayed over a base at Sakhalin. All 269 people on board died. The incident was largely responsible for the creation of a joint air traffic control organisation and an interna-

tional drive to improve navigational accuracy and co-operation, and prevent anything like it from happening again.

A new technology system called Fans (Future Air Navigation System) has been set up to make use of global positioning satellites enabling aircraft to fly an exact track and so shave up to an hour off the flight time to Hong Kong.

Using the new air corridor across Siberia, aircraft fitted with the system will be under the watchful eye of a Russian air traffic control station at Magadan in eastern Russia.

In an attempt to make the long-distance flight more comfortable United has increased the distance between seats and reduced the number of passengers to 36 first-class, 123 business and 301 142 economy.



Families on the Alaska gold trail in 1897. Now tourist chiefs are hoping there will be a similar flood of holidaymakers

Alaska prepares for a new gold rush

By TONY DAWE

THE GOLD rush is beginning again but this time it is the tourist trade in Alaska and the Yukon which is hoping to strike it rich.

A wide range of celebrations, including re-enactments, races and parades, are being planned to mark the centenary of the first big gold strike in the Klondike on

August 16, 1896, and the subsequent historic events.

To promote the celebrations, a travel mission is heading for London. Jacqui Todd, UK representative of the state's tourism division, says the mission will be the first of its type and will

include briefings for the travel trade on "how to plan and sell the destination of Alaska". An agent is also being appointed in the UK for Alaska Airlines.

The Canadians are arranging commemorative events in and around Dawson City, which became the centre of

the gold rush. Among them will be the re-enactment next July of the journey of the first ton of gold by road and rail from Dawson to Skagway, southern Alaska, and then by sea to Seattle.

Although the first big strike was made in the Yukon, an earlier strike had been made in Juneau, Alaska, and at the turn of the century gold fever spread to the centre and the West Coast.

A variety of activities are planned in Skagway, now a popular cruise port but formerly the gateway to the Chilkoot and White Passes leading to the Klondike.

"Everything a visitor sees or does in Skagway is in some way related to the gold rush," says Robert Ward, executive director of the town's visitors bureau. "We've been celebrating the gold rush ever since it happened but the coming events are going to be special."

TRAVEL ON SATURDAY

Travel the world again in Weekend Croatia rebuilt and blissfully empty Summer holidays still available A guide to the guidebooks, plus what literature to take with you Opera in Barbados Canal cruising

East Europeans offer joint deals

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

BRITISH tourists will be soon able to stay in some of Eastern Europe's most attractive cities through a single "city hopper" package deal, after an agreement between rival airlines of the former Communist bloc.

Warsaw, Prague and Budapest, each of which is linked to Britain only through its own individual air route, will now offer combined holiday packages sold through up to 30 UK tour operators.

Lot Polish Airlines, Malev from Hungary and the Czech Republic carrier CSA have formed Trio, a marketing agreement designed both to enable passengers to visit any two of their countries' capital cities and develop tourism to the whole of the Central European region. The overall fare for flights to any two of the three cities will be as much as 50 per cent below the cost of buying individual air fares.

At present, individual flights must be bought in advance, often involving complicated switching between airlines.

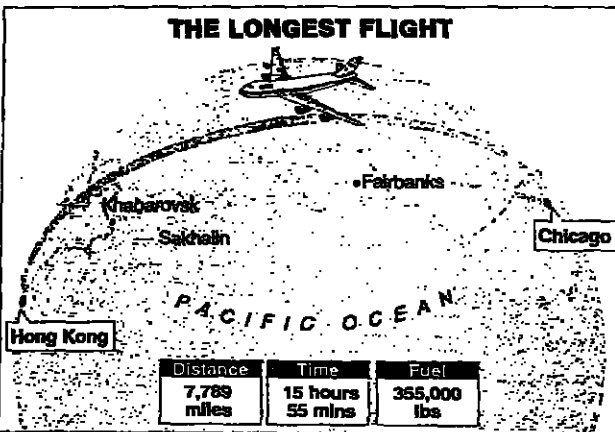
Andrzej Rode, general manager of Lot, said: "These Central European capitals have a global appeal, largely because we do not have a history of mass tourism and there is still so much to discover about these beautiful and historical cities."

"As flag carriers, we are all dedicated to promoting tourism not only to our individual countries, but to the Central European region as a whole. This deal closes the gap between our capitals which had prevented tourists from seeing more than one place during their holiday or short break."

The growth in tourism to Budapest, Prague and Warsaw has been enormous over the past few years and the airlines, each of which has some of the most modern Western-built fleets in the world, are carrying about 30 per cent more passengers than they did last year. Next year

they plan a further growth of up to 80 per cent.

Air fares are so high and ticketing often so complicated that many visitors now take the train or coach between the capitals to save both money and hassle. But this can take up to seven hours compared with a one-hour flight.



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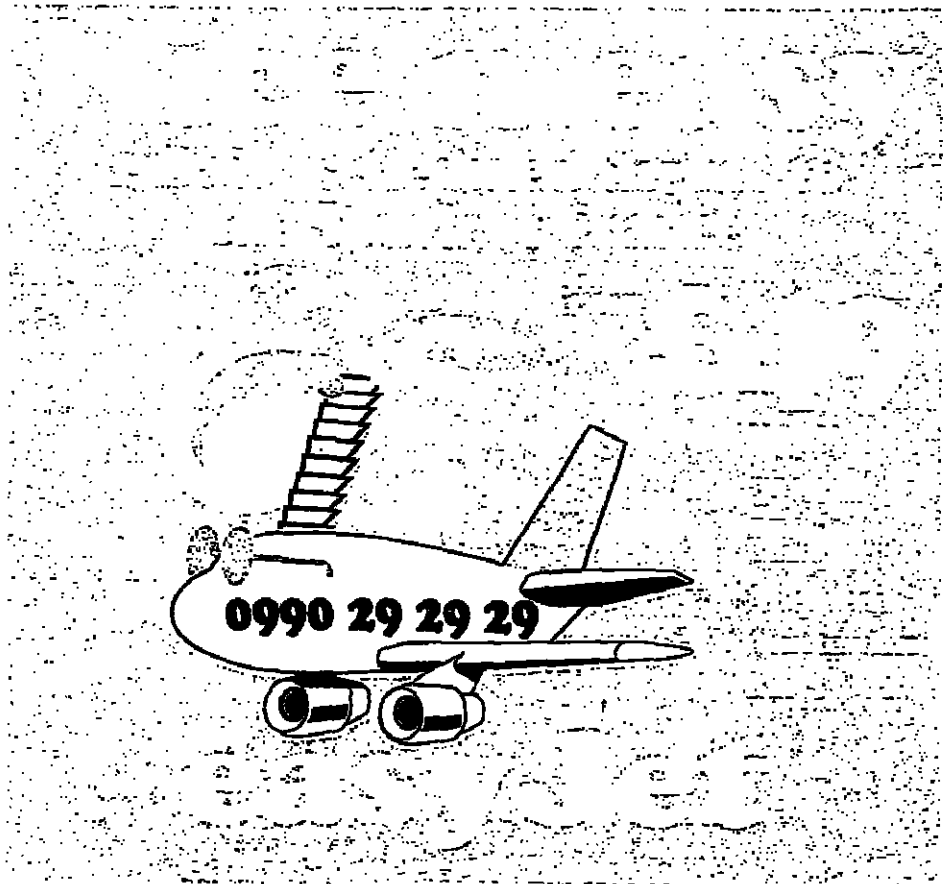
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Pity the little island states

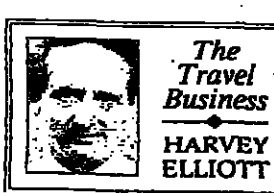
As Britain packs its bags and prepares to head off on holiday in Florida, Turkey, Spain and France, concern is growing among countries whose share of the tourism market is falling. A difference of just a few percentage points can, for them, spell crippling problems.

Few are affected more than the islands of Malta and Cyprus. They are neither cheap European resorts, nor are they exotic long-haul destinations. In the boom times of the 1980s they both prospered, but now the numbers are on the slide as Britons seek ever lower prices or new, less-developed destinations.

Malta had 60,000 fewer tourists in 1995 than in 1994. The indications are that this year there will be a further drop of about 10 per cent. The George Cross island is eager to join the European Union. To make its case, the Government is rapidly bringing its laws into line with the EU, including an end to state aid for Malta's travel business.

After intense pressure from British tour operators, however, the Maltese have agreed to continue offering what the Tour Operators Support Scheme (Toss) — which gives British companies a preferential exchange rate, cutting the price by up to 20 per cent. Many travel experts in Malta claim that the expected drop in numbers of up to 10 per cent would be as high as 35 per cent without the subsidy.

Now the state-owned Air Malta wants to turn Malta into a "hub" for more profitable scheduled services. It has



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

ambitious plans to attract passengers from Italy, North Africa and Eastern Europe, then fly them on to Britain or America. It has even created AzuraAir, a new short-haul airline based in Bergamo, Italy.

Cyprus is also trying to find ways of preventing the hemorrhaging of its visitors to other destinations. Four years ago there were a million British holidaymakers to the island, last year there were 850,000 and this year there will be 120,000 fewer still.

Noel Josephides, chairman of the Association of Greek Cypriot Travel Agents, says: "Why should tour operators send a plane to Cyprus when it is more profitable to send it to Turkey?"

Air Malta has said it "will never enter a price war", and Cyprus steadfastly refuses to contemplate Malta's Toss subsidy. Instead, both plan to move upmarket. But so do many other countries with more to offer and which are less spoilt by development.

Neither Cyprus nor Malta is now poor — both are among the wealthiest, per head, in Europe. Tourism has brought them that prosperity. Radical thinking is urgently needed if it is to continue.

Bargains of the week: learn windsurfing in Kenya, be an easy rider in France

HOLIDAYS

ALBANIA is the somewhat unlikely holiday spot on offer from Interchange with four days in a family home, sightseeing and flights on Austrian Airlines via Vienna costing £530. Details: 0181-681 3612.

TURKEY for a week for £199 a person, including bed and breakfast on a Sunworld holiday with flights from Bristol on Monday are among late offers from Thomas Cook. Details: 0990 181818.

ORLANDO for £359 a person for 13 days fly-drive holiday and accommodation with daily flights from East Midlands is available from Connections. Details: 0171-629 4010.

MONASTIR, Tunisia, for £239 a person for a week's self-catering holiday with a flight from Manchester on July 21, is available from Cosmos. Details: 0161-480 5799.

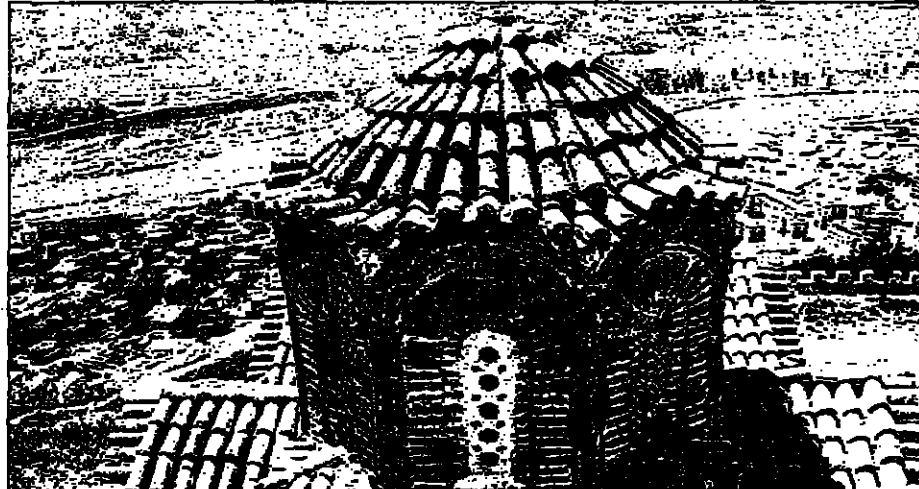
SAVINGS of £230 a person are available from Tropical Places on a fortnight's five-star beach hotel holiday in Kenya with a flight from Gatwick on July 21. The new price is £999 and includes half-board, a safari trip and windsurfing lessons. Details: 01342 825123.

PARIS for £94 a person for four nights over any weekend in July and August, available from Motours, includes Le Shuttle returns and B&B at this hotel. Details: 01892 518555.

SUSI MADRON'S Cycling for Softies will appeal to easy riders who can pay £487 each for return flights from London, half-board accommodation and a week's touring north of the Loire. Details: 0161-248 8282.

ELYSIAN Holidays has late availability on the Candill estate in northern Evia, Greece's second-largest island. Half-board accommodation is reduced by £80 to £200 a person a week throughout July and August. Flights extra. Details: 01797 225482.

CRETE with few tourists is the promise of Explore Worldwide for its Cretan Rambler holiday starting tomorrow and including sightseeing. The 16-day tour costs £629 a person and includes return flights and B&B accommodation in village inns. Details: 01252 319448.



One of the superb Byzantine churches in Albania, where family-home holidays are on offer

FARES

SALLY Ferries has a £40 fare on its Dunkirk and Ostend routes from Ramsgate for a four-day return ticket, which can be taken at any time and is valid until the end of August. Details: 0800 456456.

BRITANNY Ferries has introduced three, seven and 21-day tickets, with lower fares on four routes to France. Prices to Cherbourg and Caen range from £45 for a three-day return to £138 for 21 days. All fares cover a car and up to five people. Details: 0990 561600.

WIGHTLINK Ferries is offering a day return to the Isle of Wight for £33.50 for a car and four passengers, sailing after 9.25am on weekdays. Details: 0181-324 4000.

LE Shuttle is offering a £49 day trip until August 31 for travel between midnight and 6am, returning any time. Other day trips cost £59. Five-day returns are available for £69 until October 31. Offers are available through the broker Eurodrive. Details: 0181-324 4000.

EUROSTAR's new early-bird service departs Waterloo at 0453 and Ashford at 0615 to arrive in Paris at 0917. Details: 0990 186186.

FLIGHTS

RETURN trips to Nice, Geneva and Lisbon are available for under £200, including a week's car hire in July and August from the Air Travel Advisory Bureau. Details: 0171-636 5000.

AUSTRALIA for £630 return aboard Virgin Atlantic is still on offer from Travel Warehouse. Details: 0171-414 8803.

SPECIAL fares to Toronto are available from Welcome Travel for Air India flights from Heathrow, including £948 for first class, saving £3,000, and £395 for economy, saving £300. Details: 0171-287 6000.

WORLD Airlines has a £199 three-day business-class fare for its London City-Amsterdam service. Details: 0171-287 6000.

THE BUDGET airline Debonair has launched flights between Luton and Madrid (from £49 one-way) and Newcastle (from £28 one-way). Copenhagen (from £59 one-way) will follow on August 7. Details: 0500 146200.

AIR Gabon has launched a 747 service to Johannesburg via Libreville and plans promotional fares. Details: 01293 532555.

HOTELS

THE five-star Grand Harbour Hotel in Southampton, part of the De Vere Group, has a Harbour Club Offer until September 30, including accommodation, full board and unlimited house wines and spirits for £85 a person a night. Details: 01703 633033.

THE luxurious Hotel Crillon in Paris is offering a summer weekend package for two people until the end of August of one night's accommodation, continental breakfast and two return first-class Eurostar tickets, for £498. Details: 01233 646181.

LONDON'S new Park Consul Townhouse Hotel has a summer rate of £87.50 plus VAT for either a single or double room until the end of August. The rate is part of the hotel reservation agency Utel's Great Rates Sale. Details: 0171-225 7575 (hotel), 0990 300200 (Utel).

TO CELEBRATE its first anniversary, the Staley Hall Hotel near Hexham in Northumberland has a £99 a person rate on a half-board basis until the end of August. The price, based on a two-night stay with two sharing, includes a choice of sports or health facilities. Details: 01434 673500.

LIBERTEL Hotels is offering up to a third off its normal rates at its 27 two and three-star hotels in Paris until September 1. Rates vary from £300 (about £37.50 to £75.00 a room, including VAT and city tax. A fourth night is free when a three-night booking is made. Details: 0800 895950.

THE Sheraton Heathrow Hotel has devised a wedding package priced at £36 a person, based on a minimum of 60 people. The price includes hire of a function room, a three-course meal with sparkling wine, overnight accommodation for the bride and groom in a suite, plus other extras. Details: 0181-759 2424.

HEALTH and beauty breaks are available at the new fitness spa at Bodysgallen Hall near Llandudno. Accommodation, dinner, champagne and four spa treatments is from £120 a person a night. The price includes £25 towards further treatments, available on additional days. A non-participating partner rate is from £96. Details: 01492 584466.

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